Only Pagcor can operate jai alai, SC rules

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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ANDREWS

HAND OVER HEART

President Macapagal arriving Friday in Singapore for a three-day state visit stands at attention with Singaporean President S.R. Nathan to the Philippine National Anthem. She's due back on Sunday.

CA lets Ping off the hook on Kuratong

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC

SEN. PANFILO Lacson won a major victory yesterday in the Court of Appeals, which issued a permanent injunction barring his further prosecution in connection with the alleged murders of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang in 1995.

Voting 4-1, the appellate justices closed the case, dismissing 11 complaints involving charges of multiple murder on a mere technicality: the lapse of a two-year prescriptive period for reviving the case.

The decision will also benefit 37 others implicated in the Kuratong Baleleng case, including Chief Superintendents Francisco Zubia and Jewel Canson, and Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino, Cesar Mancao and Glenn Dumlao.

Left with no recourse but to go to the highest court in the land, Senior State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee yesterday vowed to seek the intervention of the Supreme Court through the Office of the Solicitor General.

In its decision, immediately condemned by militant groups, the CA granted Lacson's petition for a permanent injunction against any proceedings relating to the 11 complaints, including the issuance of arrest warrants against the senator.

The court's decision makes permanent a temporary restraining order against the proceedings in cases Nos. 01-101102 to 01-101112.

The tribunal also ordered the Quezon City Regional Trial Court and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to refrain from further acting on the complaints against Lacson and his aides.

Aquino and Mancao, top aides of the former Philippine National Police chief and head of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), have slipped out of the country and are believed to be either in Canada or Europe.

The justices also declared null and void a preliminary investigation conducted by the DOJ, and dismissed the corresponding complaints (called "informations") filed by the department before Judge Maria Theresa Yadao of Branch 81 of the RTC of Quezon City in June.

The decision was penned by Associate Justice Eriberto U. Rosario Jr. and concurred in by Associate Justices Conrado M. Vasquez Jr., Hilarion Aquino and Josefina Guevara-Salonga.

Only Associate Justice Buenaventura J.

CA/ A13

Devnani tried to arrange Atong Ang's surrender

By CHRISTINE HERRERA, JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN AND ARMAND NOCUM

THE "SURPRISE witness" at the Senate hearing on Thursday tried to arrange the supposed planned surrender early this year of ex-President Joseph Estrada's associate Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya made this disclosure yesterday in the course of denying that he was witness Danny Devnani's "handler," as Estrada had claimed. He said the last time he had contact with the Indian national was in January.

At that time, Berroya told the INQUIRER in a phone interview, Devnani was arranging a meeting with Ang in Hong Kong. He said he and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez flew to Hong Kong in February but Ang did not show up.

Ang fled the country on the eve of Estrada's ouster.

Devnani appeared as Col. Vic-

DEVNANI/ A13

419: 'Evil' men's club gone forever

By AGNES DONATO

EVEN if they could speak, the walls of the old Club 419 would be unable to give up their secrets about the transactions they might have witnessed, simply because the former members-only club on Wilson Street in Greenhills, San Juan, was demolished about two years ago.

Now sitting on the lot at No. 226 Wilson St. is the unfinished four-story Wilson Building, owned by Estrada's best friend, action star Fernando Poe Jr., according to security guard Bobby Barenas. The construction, now in its late phase, started in early 1999, Barenas said.

Appearing as a surprise witness in a Senate hearing Thursday, former club manager Danny Devnani claimed that in its heyday, Club 419 was a place where a group of "evil people," including ousted

419/ A13

Captain tells of ambush: 'Permission to die, Sir'

By ROCKY NAZARENO

LAMITAN, Basilan—"One was killed instantly while two others even asked my permission to die."

Saying his men were honorable to the end, Army Scout Ranger Capt. Ruben Ginulbay yesterday recounted to the House committee on national defense how three of his men perished in an ambush by Abu Sayyaf bandits right in front of St. Peter's Church here last June 2.

Ginulbay was identified by Lamitan parish priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda as the officer who admitted to him that he and his company of 70 mostly unarmed soldiers were used as "bait" for waiting Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Nacorda also led the committee in retracing the escape route of the bandits, which led to a small gate at the back of the Jose Ma. Torres Hospital, which the Abu Sayyaf had taken over on the night of June 1.

"It is so narrow and so low that even a small contingent waiting outside could pick out anybody who tried to get out," said a civilian volunteer.

In a four-page affidavit, Nacorda said Ginulbay approached him on June 3, "shook my hand very tightly, gripped my shoulder and started to weep."

CAPTAIN/ A3

I. WON! I WON!
I WON ALSO!

Quiz show's weakest link is quizmaster

HONG KONG—Red-faced TV bosses in Hong Kong have been forced to pay a quiz contestant 178,000 dollars (US$23,000) after mistakenly ruling he got a question wrong on their version of

QUIZ/ A13

Ople, Oreta, Magsaysay want Ping probe halted

By CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

JUST when things were getting more interesting, three senators yesterday said they wanted the Senate public hearings on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged illegal activities terminated now.

A day after witness Danny Devnani came out and promised to tell the Senate next week all he knew about Lacson's involvement in criminal activities, opposition Senators Blas Ople and Tessie Aquino-Oreta said the two Senate hearings have so far yielded no solid evidence against their colleague.

They said the Senate had better things to attend to.

Administration Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who chairs the national defense committee, said he was personally inclined to withdraw his committee from the hearings.

"For me, the two long hearings are good enough," he said.

But while the three legislators did not want to hear any more testimony from witnesses, a civil society group said the Senate inquiry was actually "gradually beginning to have direction."

OPLE/ A13

SC: Only Pagcor can run jai alai

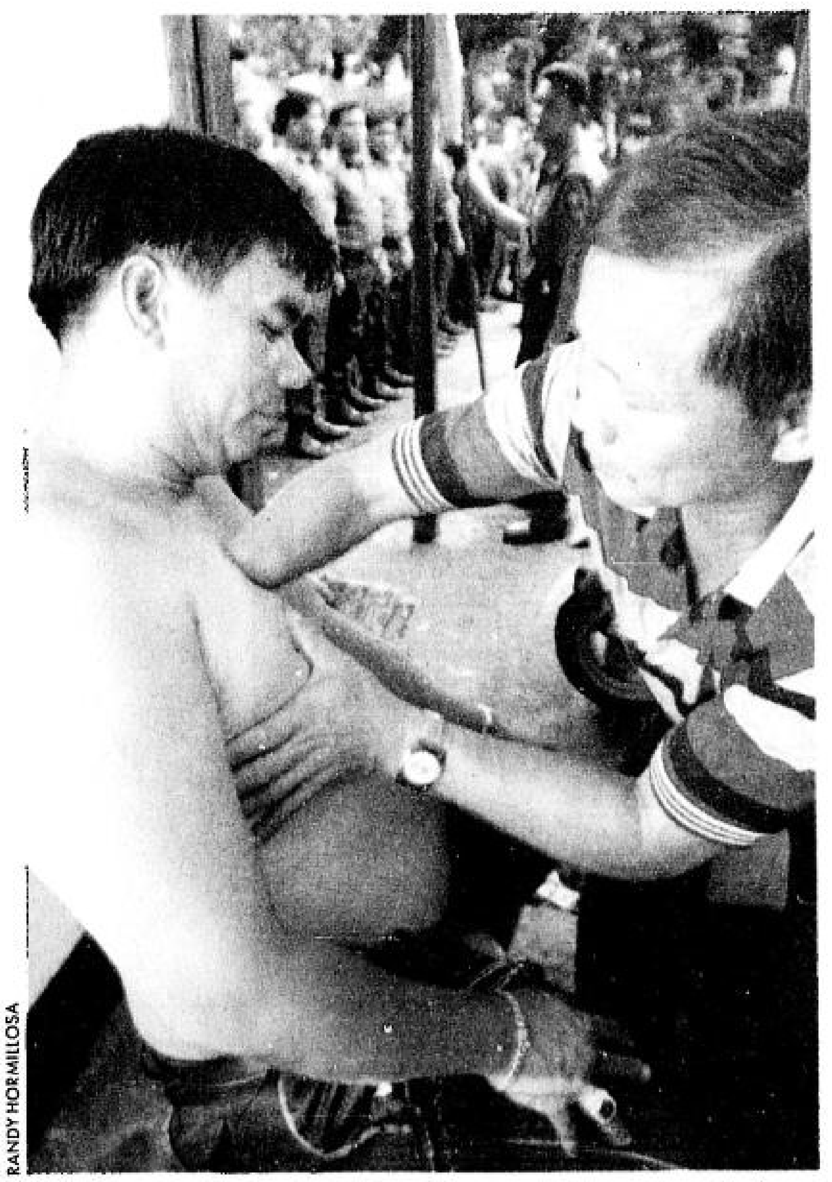
By MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ruled that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) had a valid franchise to operate jai alai games, clearing all legal obstacles for the reopening of all frontons and betting stations nationwide.

But the tribunal clarified in its seven-page resolution that only Pagcor could operate jai alai games. It upheld Pagcor's franchise to "operate, maintain or manage" the games, but not in partnership with other private entities like the Belle Corp. (Belle) and Filipinas Gaming Entertainment Totalizator Corp. (Filgame), which used to operate the games.

Those who affirmed Pagcor's franchise were Justices Josue Bellosillo, Jose Melo, Jose Vitug, Vicente Mendoza, Santiago Kapunan, Leonardo

SC/ A13


RANDY HORMILLOSA

WHAT YOU SEE ISN'T WHAT YOU GET: Faith healer's hand reaching into a patient's chest? Not quite. An amputee who is also a masseur gives this shirtless bejeweled cop a good rubdown at WPD headquarters where handicapped masseurs are employed at P10 per customer.

MASAGWANG GAWAIN!

Second FRONT PAGE

Erap pal owns firm selling spy gear

By Christine Herrera

ONE of deposed President Joseph Estrada's closest cronies "conspired" with Sen. Panfilo Lacson to conduct "full-blown" surveillance operations against personalities involved in the impeachment trial of the former chief executive, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Philippine National Police regional director for Central Luzon, said Dante Tan was the apparent owner of Armstrack Corp., which supplied state-of-the-art wiretapping equipment in April last year to the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force then headed by Lacson.

Tan is former chairman of BW Resources Inc., whose stock he allegedly manipulated, bringing the local stock exchange to the brink of collapse last year.

He has also been implicated in the abduction and murder of PR practitioner Salvador "Buddy" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

Berroya said probers were checking if Dacer was among those being monitored by the group before he and Corbito were kidnapped and later found dead.

"We are retrieving the records of the bugging devices to find out if Dacer was among those being bugged. Dacer knew a lot about the BW scam that involved Estrada, Lacson and Tan," Berroya told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Securities and Exchange Commission records obtained by the INQUIRER confirmed Tan and his wife, Teresita, were the majority and principal stockholders of Armstrack.

The couple listed 131-A Lake St., San Juan, Metro Manila as their address. The firm was registered with the SEC on Nov. 20, 1995.

The documents showed the Tan couple owned 40 percent of the company, while three others owned the other 60 percent equally.

The three were Dean Edgar Ablan, Armstrack president; his cousin, Francis Ablan, and Gertrudes de Leon, company vice president.

Edgar Ablan admitted upon questioning by intelligence probers that Tan owned 40 percent of the firm, according to Berroya, who led the operation that discovered the bugging devices at the Discovery Suites on Ortigas Avenue last Monday.

The operation resulted in the seizure of P30-million worth of wire-tapping equipment and the arrest of Ablan, De Leon and three unidentified former PAOCTF officers who were trying to sell the devices for P24 million.

Berroya said that with the equipment, which had a digital directional finder (DDF), Dacer's movements could have easily been tracked.

Ablan said the DDF can trace telephone users because the device can pick up 500 calls simultaneously within a five-kilometer radius.

Dacer was on his way to the Manila Hotel to meet with former President Fidel Ramos when he was abducted. He reportedly was carrying documents related to the BW scam.

TAN: Principal stockholder

FBI pledged to aid probe of Ping bank accounts—NBI

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE US Federal Bureau of Investigation will continue to help in the investigation of the alleged money-laundering activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday.

Wycoco told reporters at a press conference that the FBI was aggressively coordinating with Philippine authorities—the Department of Justice, the NBI and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces—to verify if the alleged multimillion bank accounts of Lacson in North America and Hong Kong really existed.

Wycoco issued the statement to deny a story in another daily that the FBI had been angered by what Philippine authorities had done with the confidential documents that it had furnished.

"It is not true that the FBI was angry and complaining about (the FBI documents turned over to the NBI). Indeed, nobody at the US Embassy has complained about it," Wycoco said.

He said he was even told to continue with the probe "for as long as the investigation is within the (ambit) of the RP-US Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty."

Wycoco also reiterated that Corpus' allegation of Lacson owning a dollar account in California had indeed been confirmed by the FBI.

He said there was another account in the name of Lacson's wife, Alice, in the Bank of America branch in Van Nuys, California. But he is unsure about how much was contained in the account.

He said the Van Nuys account was active, the most recent "movement" reported being in July this year.

"It is a very active account. But I can't say how much and I have no idea whether the movement referred to deposit or withdrawal," he said.

ARMS cache "enough to arm a battalion of soldiers," says NBI Wycoco ERIK ARAZAS

Security agency raid yields 233 firearms

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has seized a cache of high-powered firearms and ammunition from a security agency partly owned by retired police generals in Mandaluyong City.

The 233 firearms, seized last Aug. 15, consisted of M-16 rifles, carbines, shotguns and handguns and were "enough to arm a battalion of soldiers," said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Wycoco said the NBI is checking the identities of the owners of Able Security Agency, located at No. 410, Jovan Condominium, 600 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City.

Lawyer Edmund Arugay, NBI National Capital Region Division chief, said some of the security firm's 14 directors were retired police generals.

"We are (also) checking if the guns were taken from the Philippine National Police or Armed Forces armories," Wycoco said at a press conference yesterday.

The raid stemmed from a tip to the NBI that the security agency kept high-powered firearms in its armory.

Arugay said the agency was registered in the name of Corazon Arenas, its general manager. Aside from Arenas, 14 directors and officers were listed as co-owners of the 10-year-old agency.

All of them could face charges of violation of Presidential Decree 1866 (illegal possession of firearms and ammunition).

After receiving the tip, Arugay's team obtained a search warrant from Quezon City Judge Monina Zeñarosa.

"During the search, the key to the agency's armory which was in Arenas' cubicle was not (given to us) despite repeated requests. So we were forced to open the armory, where we found a large quantity of firearms and ammunition," Arugay said.

Most of the guns' serial numbers had been tampered with, it was reported.

The cache included 40 M-16 Armalite rifles, two .30-cal. carbines, 21 new and 100 old shotguns, 70 .38-cal. revolvers, 33 magazines for the M-16 and boxes of ammunition of different calibers.

Arugay said the agency, which has about 100 security guards, only had five licensed long arms.

SINGAPORE VISIT

RP working to stop crime, kidnaps–GMA

By Martin Marfil

SINGAPORE(via PLDT)—On the first day of a three-day visit to Singapore aimed at putting the Philippines back on the investment map, President Macapagal-Arroyo tried to reassure an audience of businessmen, journalists and Filipino overseas workers here that the entire machinery of her government was being mobilized against kidnapping and crime.

At a lecture organized by the Institute of International Policy Studies here yesterday, she dwelt at some length on her administration's economic programs and policy strategies, particularly with regard to crime and corruption.

The Philippines has been off investors' radar screens because of law and order problems, highlighted by the spate of kidnappings in Mindanao and in the capital.

To a question from the floor on what the tourism department was doing about the problem of kidnappings, the President replied:

"It's not just the tourism department that is going to start the effort to make the tourist safe in the Philippines. It's the entire government machinery, it's the entire uniformed services of the Philippines."

She added that she had just organized the National Anti-Crime Commission to coordinate the government drive.

"I believe that we have made a lot of inroads already. We have been able to achieve much in reducing crime in the Philippines," Ms Macapagal said in her speech.

Ms Macapagal alluded directly to the case of Singaporeans who were kidnapped in Manila, saying the cases had been solved.

"I am sorry to say that they were masterminded by Singaporeans," she said, to laughter from the audience.

She said there was an attempt to abduct another Singaporean but this was foiled and some suspects were arrested because of good intelligence work.

"I believe the particular syndicate that targets Singaporeans has already been broken. But we are not resting there, we are putting all efforts in fighting crime," she said.

The President said her government was focused on one subject—the fight against poverty.

The Philippines supports free trade because it was inevitable.

However, she said free trade must also be fair, "that genuinely takes into account the interests of all - the poor as well as the rich."

"We . . . are resolutely against any attempts to chip away at our comparative advantage by the imposition of arbitrary labor and environment standards, protectionist anti-dumping measures, and trade-distorting agricultural export subsidies that poorer countries cannot match," she said.

Noting that opening the Philippines up to the global economy would pose threats to the country's industries, she said the solution was the integration of the Southeast Asian economies which together constitute half the size of China in population and about equal to it in gross domestic product.

Ms Macapagal said firms and industries should be provided with an environment that is conducive to making them more competitive.

This can be done by giving them cheaper power, transportation, telecommunications and information technology, she said.

She said her government was "single-mindedly" focused on the development and use of information technology for the Philippines to "have a chance in the increasingly fierce competition for markets and investments."

"Our people are good at it . . . we are determined to help them become better," she said, adding that she will be setting up a telecommunications and information technology department.

Noting that this "forced march" to develop information technology will take a little time, safety nets would be placed in the meantime to protect society's more vulnerable sectors.

Her administration, she told the audience, was determined to stamp out graft and corruption with the overhaul of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

These two agencies would be her administration's "showcase," she said.

She said her government was doing everything in its power to stamp out serious crime—"kidnapping, drug-trafficking and the general lawlessness that has been allowed to afflict or society again in the past few years."

"Personal security is the most vital condition for doing business and carrying on one's life," she said.

Ms Macapagal arrived here yesterday on a three-day official visit, her first to the city-state as President. She will witness the signing of 12 memorandums of understanding, including one in which tech-savvy Singapore would help set up an information technology center in Manila. *With reports from AFP, AP*

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WANTED PROVINCIAL DEALERS!

'I didn't know JDV was a farmer'

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday thumbed down a proposal by House Speaker Jose de Venecia to enter into a compromise agreement with the Cojuangcos and Marcoses to free some P100 billion in coconut levy funds for government use.

PCGG chair Haydee Yorac said De Venecia's proposal was "exactly" the same as Executive Order 313 approved by the Estrada administration but which President Macapagal has revoked.

Yorac said De Venecia had no right to plan what to do with the 47 percent sequestered coco levy shares in San Miguel Corp., which is controlled by Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

"Those funds belong to the farmers," Yorac said in a press conference yesterday. "I didn't know De Venecia was a farmer."

She said the congressman should consult the farmers first because his proposal would in effect, "exonerate the Marcoses and Cojuangco from explaining what they did with the money during all this time."

She said drafting another compromise with the Marcoses and Cojuangco would also preempt the decision of the Sandiganbayan on whether the funds are public or private.

De Venecia has proposed that the government enter into a compromise with Cojuangco to allow the use of 27 percent of the sequestered SMC shares, with an estimated value of at least P50 billion, to beef up government revenue.

His proposal is "the same" as EO 313 which creates the coco levy trust fund to be managed by a nine-member board composed of representatives from the private sector, including Cojuangco, the farmers and concerned non-government organizations.

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PCGG hot on trail of Ver's mistress

THE MISTRESS of top Marcos military aide, Gen. Fabian Ver, was able to transfer money suspected to be part of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth from Hong Kong to Germany at about the time that the government was trying to pin down Marcos daughter Irene Marcos-Araneta in an alleged money-laundering heist early this year.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government yesterday said Ver's mistress, Edna Camcam, laundered at least $500,000 from her account in Hong Kong to a German bank around February this year.

It was at around this time that Irene Marcos and her husband, Gregorio Araneta III, assisted by some friends including Camcam, allegedly tried but failed to transfer money from the $13.2 billion I. Arenetta Swiss account to the Deutsche Bank in Germany.

PCGG chair Haydee Yorac said Camcam transferred a still undetermined amount to Germany by sending the money to a person whose identity the PCGG has refused to reveal.

Yorac also did not disclose the name of the German bank that is now holding Camcam's assets, but said it was not the Deutsche Bank where the Aranetas had opened an account to receive the alleged Swiss deposits.

"We don't know if this is the first time she did this, or if she has done it before or after," Yorac told a press conference yesterday.

She said the PCGG has already sought the help of Hong Kong authorities concerning Camcam's account in the Chinese territory through the International Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters (IMAC).

Camcam's alleged money-laundering activities were contained in a report submitted by the German police to the joint task force of the Department of Justice and the PCGG on the $13.2 billion I. Arenetta account. *Blanche Rivera*

Tax credit scam ruling appealed

By Donna Cueto

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to reverse its "untimely and hasty dismissal" of 62 graft cases filed against a former Finance undersecretary and Petron Corp. officials, among others, in connection with the P690-million tax credit certificates scam.

In a 15-page motion for reconsideration, Ombudsman Prosecutor III Orlando Ines questioned the dismissal of the graft cases against some 50 respondents by the Sandiganbayan's Fourth Division under Associate Justice Narciso Nario.

The prosecutors noted that the hearing last Aug. 20, in which the anti-graft court handed down its ruling, was for arraignment and pre-trial purposes and not to hear any motions to dismiss the cases.

"The pronouncement dismissing the cases was the unilateral act of the court in complete disregard of the defense's willingness to proceed with the arraignment and pre-trial," the motion said.

It said the prosecution had even "properly apprised" the court of the "difficulty in resolving the varied complex issues raised by the 15 defense counsels which must be addressed by the Ombudsman."

Ines also pointed out that none of the accused had invoked their right to a speedy trial.

The prosecutors said the court had already ruled on the existence of probable cause when it issued arrest warrants for all the accused.

Among the respondents were former Finance undersecretary Antonio Belicena, executive director Uldarico Andutan Jr. of the Department of Finance's one-stop center for tax credit and duties, and Petron president Monico Jacob.

At least 18 garment firms had been identified by the Ombudsman as having illegally transferred 246 tax credit certificates with a total value of P614.6 million to Petron.

HK boss burns Pinay maid in iron attack

HONG KONG—A Filipino maid suffered burn wounds when her Chinese boss allegedly attacked her with a hot iron as punishment for not pressing his clothes well enough, police said Friday.

The maid had an iron mark burned into her left forearm and was treated at a hospital after the altercation on Thursday, her fourth day on the job, police spokeswoman Kelly Chan said.

Newspaper reports identified the 31-year-old maid as Lilia Bernardino Dangeo, but Chan would confirm only her surname. In keeping with police public relations policy, Chan would identify the employer only by his surname, Liu.

Liu left after the alleged assault and police were searching for him, Chan said. Investigators seized Liu's iron as evidence, Chan said.

The South China Morning Post said Dangeo was a mother of three who had worked in Singapore for about four years before coming to Hong Kong where she thought could make more money and have better working conditions.

Last year, a Hong Kong woman was sentenced to 18 months in jail for scalding the hands of her Filipino maid with a hot iron as punishment for scorching a camisole. In May, another Hong Kong woman who beat her Indonesian live-in maid with a mop and scalded her neck with a hot iron was jailed for 22 months.

Connie Bragas-Regalado, chairwoman of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong said she was appalled by the latest iron attack.

"It's quite alarming that so many foreign domestic helpers are being ironed by employers," Bragas-Regalado said.

The employers think "they can do anything they want" to their maids, whom they think are "less human" since the maids come from some poor countries, said Cynthia Tellez, director of the Mission for Filipino Migrant Workers. *AP*

Jimenez richest House member

By Volt Contreras

THE MOST controversial member of the House of Representatives is also the richest.

Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, a crony of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada and a fugitive from United States justice, topped the millionaires list of the 208-member chamber.

Jimenez, also known as Mario Crespo, listed his net worth at P355.8 million in the annual tabulation of lawmakers' assets and liabilities, copies of which were obtained by the House press corps yesterday.

Jimenez, who is fighting a US request for extradition on charges of mail fraud, tax fraud and illegal campaign contributions, is said to have assets worth P435 million and liabilities of P80 million.

The second richest is Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, who declared her net worth as P331 million.

Her husband, former Speaker and now Sen. Manuel Villar, consistently topped the list during his own stint in the House.

Speaker Jose de Venecia did not even figure in the top 10. With a declared net worth of P51.7 million, De Venecia is only the 19th richest congressman.

The "poorest" congressman is Compostela Valley Rep. Manuel Zamora whose net worth is only P534,530.

This position used to be occupied by slain Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

But Zamora could still lose the distinction of being the poorest congressman with the recent entry into the House of the party-list representatives representing the so-called marginalized sectors.

The new arrivals include Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, a militant labor leader who claims to be using a borrowed car and a secondhand *barong tagalog*.

The top 10 richest congressmen are Jimenez, Villar, Augusto Syjuco of Iloilo (net worth P248 million), Vicente Sandoval of Palawan (P240 million), Abdula Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte (P107 million);

Rafael Nantes of Quezon (P105.4 million), Jack Enrile of Cagayan (P92 million), Mark Cojuangco of Pangasinan (P85 million), Chuck Mathay of Quezon City (P84 million) and Joey Hizon of Manila (P78 million).

JIMENEZ: Richest

ZAMORA: Poorest

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a. Sept. 13-14 3:00-8:00 PM b. Sept 24-25 1:20-6:30 PM
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Captain tells of ambush: 'Permission to die, sir'

(From page A1)

"Since I am not used to seeing a soldier cry, and an officer at that, I realized that this man must be in deep trouble and that he must have (had) some serious problems," Nacorda told the 17 congressmen who conducted the hearing at the jampacked Claret School here.

"Father, they used us as bait," Nacorda quoted Ginulbay as telling him.

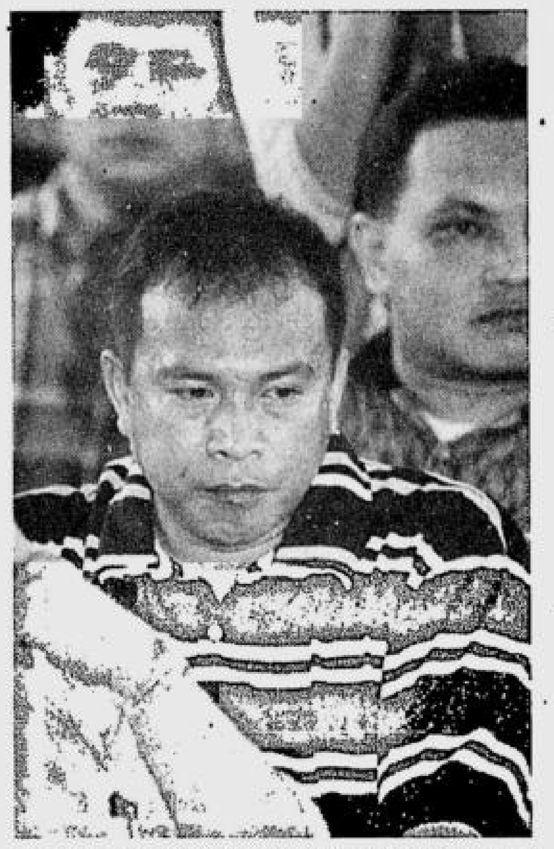
But Ginulbay "clarified" Nacorda's account and said that "60 of my men had their individual rifles with them and it was only my 10 gunners who did not have their machine guns with them."

He also issued a "rebuttal" to Nacorda's claim that they were dispatched to Lamitan specifically to resolve the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis.

"We were still on administrative mission when we arrived in Lamitan because we still had no orders on a particular mission," he told the committee.

But Ginulbay looked back in disgust to that pre-dawn ambush which, he said, "could have been turned around had we had our regular firearms."

"We would have even been able to overrun the church (if we had complete firearms)," said the Philippine Military Academy (Class 1994) graduate.



A PENSIVE Fr. Cirilo Nacorda at the House public hearing in Lamitan.

CHARLIE SACEDA/ PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Barking dogs

Only barking dogs could have given a semblance of resistance to escaping Abu Sayyaf bandits, said residents of "Veterans Drive," a dirt road which fleeing ASG bandits took after emerging from the lone iron door that was the hospital's back exit.

They escaped in the afternoon of June 2.

"They casually walked away, not one of them in a hurry," said a man who tended a small store.

The old man noted that as most of the residents hid inside their houses, they had expected that gunshots would be fired to prevent the group from escaping what they believed was already an airtight military dragnet.

"But all we could hear were our dogs barking wildly," he said.

What was more peculiar was that the military resumed its attack on the hospital and the adjacent church compound some six hours after the ASG had already left. "They started bombarding our houses but never hitting the hospital," a woman resident complained.

Bribe money

The hearing was held to hear Nacorda's charges that some military officials accepted bribe money from Abu Sayyaf officials in exchange for the latter's escape from the hospital on June 2. Cheered on by several hundred residents, Nacorda told the committee that his suspicion was aroused when Ginulbay complained to him that his unit had been used as "bait."

When the committee held a closed-door executive session, 20 more witnesses testified on the alleged connivance between some military officials and the Abu Sayyaf.

The public hearing was warmly received by the Lamiteños, but it turned emotional and highly charged when Ginulbay's superiors, Army Gen. Glicerio Sua and Col. Hermogenes Esperon, had a short talk just before the army captain's testimony was taken.

The crowd roared in disapproval when Rep. Hussein Amin moved that the taking of Ginulbay's testimony be postponed today when it will be the military's chance to air its side.

Today, the hearing shifts to the capital town of Isabela where the military top brass involved in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf is expected to answer Nacorda's charges.

"We would like to assure all parties concerned that this will be an objective hearing and that all sides will be given a chance (to be heard)," committee chair Rep. Prospero Pichay said. He said that the congressional probe was held "to find out the truth because a media blackout had been imposed."

Emotional account

Ginulbay, commander of a newly graduated Scout Ranger class, gave an emotional account of how his unit was ordered into Basilan on short notice but was not given its proper complement of heavy weaponry.

"The situation was very chaotic," the officer said.

"It was the first time I saw my own men fall in combat. When I touched the head of one of my men I saw that it had been reduced by half. I was carrying him with his brain spilling out on the pavement. While I carried my wounded men I was crying."

Abu Sayyaf snipers ambushed the 70-member unit before dawn on June 2, leaving three soldiers dead and five others wounded.

"I had my gunners but no machine guns," Ginulbay said. "If we had a recoilless rifle I would have been able to blow the gate open and maybe overrun the place."

But the audience jeered when the young officer told the congressmen: "I can't remember saying we were used as bait."

The Senate and the defense department are also separately probing the incident, which has added to the government's embarrassment over its failure to resolve a three-month-old hostage crisis.

Nacorda, who testified behind closed doors on Thursday, "mentioned some names of generals" during a separate Senate committee hearing here on Thursday, Sen. Noli de Castro said without identifying the generals.

According to De Castro, soldiers at the back of the hospital were ordered to withdraw.

"The funny thing is that no one knows who issued the order to withdraw," he said.

No failure

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. yesterday denied reports that the just-concluded Senate inquiry he led in Basilan was a failure or was even meant to outdo the separate inquiry launched by the House yesterday there as well.

Magsaysay made the statement as Sen. Blas Ople declared the Magsaysay-led hearing a "failure" because both the Senate and House did not coordinate their investigations and because chief witness Narcoda did not testify.

"Far from the truth because soon after, Fr. Nacorda agreed to an executive session with us senators and Ambassador Ernesto Maceda in his quarters at the St. Peter's church where he voluntarily and freely spoke," Magsaysay said.

With reports from Julie Alipala-Inot, Christine Avendaño, AFP and AP

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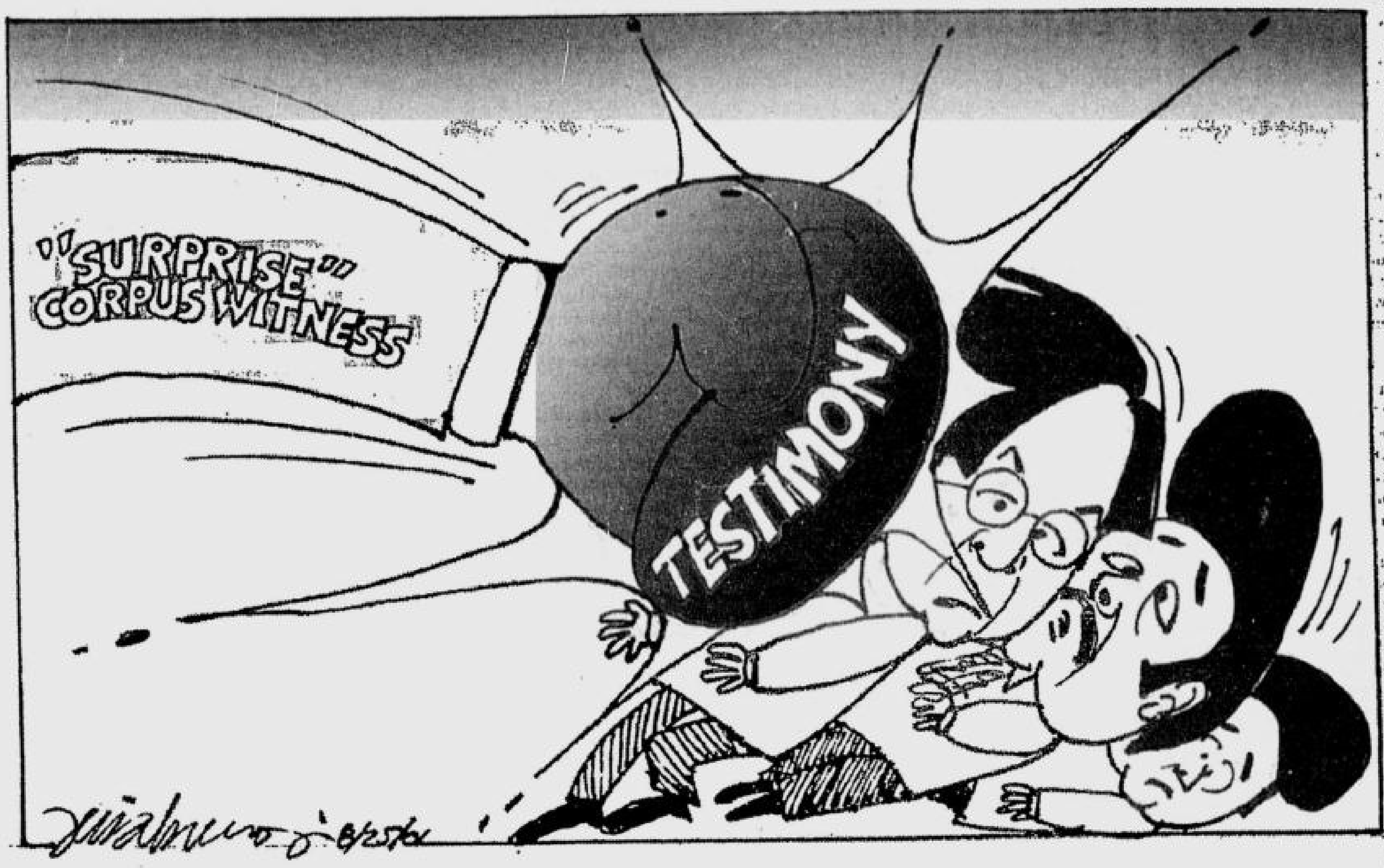


EDITORIALS

An insider's story

THE SENATE inquiry into allegations of money laundering and drug trafficking against Sen. Panfilo Lacson jumped back to life with the introduction of surprise witness Danny Devnani.

Devnani, an Indian businessman, was sprung by Col. Victor Corpus just as the hearings bogged down on thin evidence that required further substantiation and on an initial exercise of inquisitorial heavy-handedness by the senators. The new witness shifted the hearings to another ground: the murky world of Kuratong Baleleng kidnappings and even murder.

Devnani's testimony brought to mind Luis "Chavit" Singson's exposé on the *jueteng* payoffs. He was another insider blowing the whistle, and this has an ominous ring because insiders were the ones who tightened the noose around deposed President Joseph Estrada in the impeachment trial—insiders like Singson, Clarissa Ocampo and a raft of bank officials whose testimony traced the paper trail of Estrada's bank accounts.

In his statement during the Senate hearing last Thursday, Devnani said that Estrada, his son Jinggoy, Atong Ang (of Bingo 2 Ball notoriety), and a host of shadowy characters frequented an exclusive membership club where they talked openly of kidnappings with Kuratong Baleleng gang leaders. claimed to be part of the "inner circle" of the club, which was originally named Club 419 and later renamed International Business Club in Greenhills, San Juan. He also said he fronted for the former president, who he said was the real owner of the club.

It was inside this club that professional basketball player Arnulfo "Arnie" Tuadles was murdered on Nov. 2, 1996. Businessman Ambet Antonio was convicted of the slaying but Devnani gave the tragic incident a new twist when he said that Tuadles' "crime was that he was working for Atong Ang and he knew all their criminal activities."

The connection of Devnani's testimony to Lacson has to do with the massacre of 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng for which a case is being built up against Lacson.

Devnani said he decided to come forward and make a clean breast of it after he received death threats from Ang. Death threats were also the reason cited by Singson in explaining his decision to blow the whistle on Estrada.

Singson's allegations of *jueteng* kickbacks were backed by documentary evidence (bank checks and accounts), as well as the testimony of several witnesses. But by their very nature, murder and other crimes don't leave a paper trail, so they have to be substantiated mainly by testimony of witnesses. The problem is that witnesses to sensational crimes in this country have the habit of "emigrating" to foreign countries or just disappearing.

These are the circumstances under which Devnani, no matter how well-intentioned he is in spilling the beans, has made his allegations. Corpus will need more witnesses to corroborate Devnani's allegation, and he will certainly have problems getting witnesses with enough civic courage to risk their lives in the interest of getting at the truth.

Frightening picture

DEVNANI has made serious allegations which put his credibility on the line, if not his life. He has promised to reveal more details in future hearings. If his allegations are true, they open another dimension of alleged wrongdoing of Estrada, Jinggoy and the disgraced former president's cronies beyond the plunder and corruption cases filed against him before the Sandiganbayan.

With the Devnani testimony, Corpus has widened the dragnet against Lacson. This is taking place even as new evidence, this time documentary, has been supplied by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to the National Bureau of Investigation on Lacson's bank accounts in the United States. Also, former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim has testified in the Senate to link Kim Wong, an alleged drug lord, to the disappearance on May 12 last year of Chinese interpreter Angelino Sy. Wong and Lacson have been accused by Corpus of operating the biggest drug syndicate in the country, a charge that both of them have denied.

If the allegations unveiled so far in the Senate hearings are true, they paint a frightening picture of a society honeycombed by crimes related to drug trafficking, kidnappings and murders. This should be a compelling reason for the Senate to encourage production of evidence that would allow not only a thorough but fair inquiry.

Honoring an institution

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I RECEIVED a fax message recently from Mrs. Consuelo D. Sison, a favorite correspondent of mine whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting. She says that although she is now 80 years old, she is still active in civic affairs and an "armchair critic of the contemporary scene."

She is now preparing for the reunion of her Class '41 of the Philippine Normal School (now a university), which is celebrating its centenary this year. In conjunction with that milestone, her own class is observing its diamond anniversary on Sept. 2, next Sunday. She is asking all her classmates to get in touch with her at Fax No. 931-3011 and send her an update of their present activities. She will also appreciate their family pictures for inclusion in their directory.

I don't expect there will be many attending that reunion, considering that her class graduated 60 years ago and some of its members may have already departed from this world. I do hope, though, that those who are still "present, ma'am!" will have the time and energy to participate in the ceremonies, which are sure to be sentimental. Like most reunions, it will be a reliving of the past and a joyous evocation of memories long tenderly kept in mothballs.

Many people do not know that the Philippine Normal University, one of our most respected educational institutions, is all of 100 years old. Indeed, it has become an "institution" in the prestigious sense of the word as part of the history of our country and the education of our people. I did not realize until now that it was established as early as 1901, when the American civil government itself was still in the process of formation.

One of the earliest policies of the United States in this country was the education of the masses, a purpose invoked by the imperialists to justify our colonization. To their credit, that objective was assiduously and successfully pursued. Today, English is understood even in our rural areas, and the Philippines has a respectable literacy rate in Asia. This achievement is in sharp contrast to the arrogant record of the Spanish rulers who kept the *indios* benighted so we could forever remain unprotesting victims of their oppression.

The best proof of American altruism in this regard is the Philippine Normal University, which had for its original faculty some of the much-admired "Thomasites," the 600 American teachers who came here on the steamer Thomas to train Filipino teachers. Before long, our own teachers, many of them graduates of the PNU, were operating the free public school system inaugurated under President McKinley's instructions. The American teachers eventually left after a job well done, with the sincere gratitude of the Filipino people.

This is for me as good an opportunity as any to pay tribute to our teachers, particularly at the primary level.

I have been teaching law for almost four decades now, but I take off my hat to the grade school teacher as the superior mentor. The reason is that it is she who initiates the formal learning process. There are many eminent college professors whose impressive academic degrees attest to their erudition, but they cannot hold a candle to their colleague in the primary school. It is she who blazes the trail to curiosity and wonder and eventually to knowledge and even wisdom.

Teachers on the higher levels of instruction have their work cut out for them. Those in the lower grades have prepared their pupils for the succeeding studies. In my case, for example, I can assume that my students have learned the subjects required to qualify them for the law course, like English and civics and logic, because of the work of the teachers before me. I am grateful to them for enlightening their students and lightening my own work.

The grade school teacher is different from her colleagues because she must begin at the beginning. The minds of her pupils are unexplored territory eager for discovery. The children know practically nothing except those casual bits of information they have picked up at random. Now they must start their formal education, and it is the primary grade teacher who will show them the way. It is she who will open their minds to a new world of letters and numbers and colors and songs and fairies dancing in the rain.

(I write of the grade school teacher in the feminine gender simply because there are more of them, like nurses. This is no dismissal or derogation of their male counterparts, who deserve equal respect and appreciation.)

It is delightful to watch the progress of the children being introduced to the wonderful lore of learning. They enter the classroom with a clean slate, as it were, to be filled with lessons that will define their future persona. They start scrawling at first and soon they can recite the alphabet and write it too. They begin to count from 1 to 5 and later can say that 2 plus 2 equals 4. Where they could only look at the pictures before, they can now read the stories too, haltingly at first and then with increasing fluency. Much of this achievement is due to the grade school teacher.

She guides not only the precocious or bright pupils but all those who come under her patient care. Some may learn faster than the others, but all of them follow her in their common quest for knowledge. They believe in their teacher, and that is part of her reward. The other part is a sense of fulfillment. At the end of the school year, she can be proud that, because of her, another batch of children have begun to read, and write, and add, and identify objects, colors, and words, sing happy songs, and play in their fancy with dinosaurs or dolls.

Honor, then, to the lowly teacher for opening the frontiers of the young and curious mind.

I know precious little about the history of the Philippine Normal University but there is no doubt that it has contributed profoundly to the education of our people and the molding of our youth into enlightened and responsible citizens. I offer sincere felicitations to it as it celebrates its centenary, and particularly to its Class of 1941 on its diamond anniversary.

Let's have the evidence

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

FRANKLY, I couldn't care (at this time, anyway) whether Ador Mawanay's statements regarding Loren Legarda or Noli de Castro or Tito Sotto are true or false. I didn't even want to hear them. And, since they are not in the sworn statement that Mawanay presented to the Barbers committee, it's obvious he didn't want to make those statements.

As far as I am concerned, Mawanay and anything he has to say about anyone else but Panfilo Lacson are not germane to the issue at hand. It is unfortunate that as a result of the questions that led Mawanay to mention their names, some mischievous minds are trying to identify the three other senators with Lacson, as if the guilt or innocence of one were tantamount to the guilt or innocence of all.

The issue at hand, let us remind ourselves, is whether Col. Victor Corpus has anything whatsoever to offer as evidence in support of his charges against Lacson. Surely it is not too much to ask the Senate to allow Corpus to address that issue forthwith and without further delay.

When a senator is accused by a responsible government official—the chief of military intelligence, in this case—of murder, kidnapping and drug trafficking, I, as a Filipino citizen, want to know what the basis is. When there is even the slightest possibility that narco-politics, where politicians are funded and brought into power with drug money, has entered the scene, I want to know everything I can about it.

And please spare us the argument about bringing the case to court. Of course, it should. But a Senate investigation does not mean that a case cannot or will not be brought to court, and bringing it to court does not necessarily preclude a Senate investigation.

One has to be an idiot not to know that justice can be delayed in the Philippines. And that a lot of money (drug money is a lot of money) and very expensive lawyers can result in a lot of judicial delay, all in the name of due process. That is why it is imperative that the evidence, especially on narco-politics, since it involves no less than a senator of the republic and is a legitimate subject of inquiry in aid of legislation, should be aired before the public.

If there is any truth about drug money influencing Philippine politics, I don't want to know the details many years after the fact, when it is too late to do anything about it, and the country is run by narcos. It has been 15 years since cases were brought against Marcos and his cronies, and there is still no resolution.

Neither do I buy the many questions about Corpus' motives. Let us grant, although I don't believe it, that he is a polluted source, that he has an axe to grind. So what? Let us assume that he is a self-appointed messiah. So what? Let us accept that he did not follow the chain of command. What does that have to do with the price of bananas, i.e., with whether what he says is true or not?

Wasn't Chavit Singson a polluted source? Didn't he have an axe to grind? Let the evidence speak for itself. I shudder to think where we would be now if Singson hadn't been allowed to speak, simply because his motives were suspect, or his intentions were impure.

Many, if not all, of those organized crime *padrones* and *mafiosi*, many of those drug lords, who are now in jail in the United States are there, thanks to the testimony of their underlings who "sang." They were criminals themselves and therefore polluted sources.

So please allow us to hear the evidence that Corpus might have with regard to the murder, kidnapping and drug trafficking activities of Lacson. The sooner Corpus is given the floor, the sooner we will know whether he is a hero or a heel and treat him accordingly.

And I sincerely hope that the proceedings of the executive sessions will be made public as soon as possible. If they have to do it, names can be deleted. But the public has the right to know. And we also know that the Senate leaks like a sieve, so it would be better if we got incomplete information firsthand, than distorted information secondhand.

There are other aspects of this whole issue that should be noted before they get lost in the muddle.

There is the matter of Kim Wong and his having given Lacson a cell phone to use, which is admitted by both. When Wong first brought it up, he did not mention that Lacson was paying the phone bills, something which surely he would have remembered. Now, he has a very elaborate story to tell, complete with his "*misis,*" without his knowledge, paying the bills and being reimbursed by Lacson's secretary.

It could not possibly escape anyone's notice that Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who had demanded that Mawanay back up his statements with material or physical evidence, or corroborating witnesses, meekly took Wong's statements at face value.

There is also the matter of Wong, who is a Chinese national, contributing to the election campaigns of Alfredo Lim and Lito Atienza. This is a fact that has been admitted by all three, and a fact adverted to by Frank Chavez, Wong's lawyer, and widely quoted. This contribution is patently illegal, as Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. gently pointed out to Wong.

Wong pointed out (Chavez was beside him and whispering in his ear) that it was his "*misis*" who made the contributions, a fact which had not been previously mentioned by either Lim, Atienza, Chavez or Wong. Again, Wong's statements were taken at face value in striking contrast to how Mawanay was treated.

A little more even-handedness please. And, in fairness to all, a little more aggressiveness in investigating Wong's activities.

Bimp-Eaga revival sought by GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM—Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, supreme ruler of the fabled kingdom of Brunei, pulled out all the stops during the three-day visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that ended yesterday morning. At her formal call on the sultan at the Istana Nurul Iman, the sultan's official residence, he honored her with the highest decoration of the state and the title of *Datin Laila Utama*, which means "The Most Esteemed Family Order." (Former President Cory Aquino was also given the honor, but no one could recall if President Estrada, who came to Brunei twice, was accorded a similar honor.) All through President Macapagal's visit, the Brunei officials and the press referred to her as "*Datin*," the female equivalent of "*datu*." The Philippine delegation and the accompanying media found it hard to adjust to GMA's new title, but not the sultan's subjects—they seemed comfortable with that title for GMA.

* * *

The black-tie, candlelight state banquet the sultan tendered in honor of the President, the First Gentleman and the official and business delegation was, as one might expect of a "petroleum giant," as GMA labeled Brunei, a glittering affair. The entire sprawling compound was ablaze with myriad of lights. An orchestra played Philippine love songs during the dinner.

This fabled palace, which also serves as the sultan's office as prime minister, is set amid a series of low hills. Designed in 1980, it was finished three years later by a Filipino consortium led by the Ayalas and D.M. Consunji, using a lot of Philippine mahogany in its high-vaulted Islamic and Malay-influenced roof. Typical of the Bruneians, who build structures in a grand manner, the palace is said to be the largest residential palace in the world. Among the domestic staff numbering 2,000 are 500 Filipinos, many of whom were around to serve the Filipino guests at the banquet.

* * *

The state dinner was interesting to us Pinoys in that there was no clapping as the dignitaries, including the sultan's two official wives, entered the banquet hall and after the speeches were delivered. The banquet had a solemn air. No toasts were exchanged between the two heads of state, due to the fact Brunei is a Muslim country where liquor is forbidden. As the royals came into the hall, some of us wondered if Prince Jefri, the sultan's brother, who is in financial trouble because of his lavish spending and lifestyle (news reports said that over a 10-year period, he spent a total of $2.725 billion),was around, but nobody dared to ask the question as we were all sure the Bruneians preferred not to talk about him or the auction of his property that was just concluded.

* * *

The good-looking Sultan Bolkiah, the 29th monarch in an unbroken lineage that dates back to the 14th century, paid tribute to the close historic ties between the two countries, which the visiting President accentuated in a personal manner when she recalled to the press her own family ties with Brunei. According to her, during the 16th century, the first Sultan Bolkiah married a Filipina, a Sulu princess named Lela Menchanai, whose grandson Lakandula, a Manila nobleman, was a Macapagal. GMA, queried about the "royal ties" by the local media, said that the sultan has asked his historians to check this detail.

* * *

The sultan also stressed his full support for closer cooperation between the two countries as well as the revival of the old sub-regional alliance that former President Ramos helped create in 1995, the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (Bimp-Eaga), which was severely affected by the Asian crisis of 1997. GMA has been pushing for the revival of the Bimp-Eaga in the light of the similar moves to activate newer sub-regional groupings, notably the Mekong Delta group of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand and the Singapore-Malaysia and Indonesia sub-group. Her message was, let's revive Bimp-Eaga before we are eclipsed by the new groupings. She urged the sultan to take the lead in the Bimp-Eaga's revival since he is the current chair of Asean 10.

GMA, of course, has a selfish motive in developing the Bimp-Eaga for Mindanao could be a gateway to Asean through this sub-regional group. The Asian Development Bank is preparing a loan program to support small and medium enterprises in the Bimp-Eaga area.

* * *

The President was especially delighted that the sultan has instructed his staff to study how Brunei could be part of the consortium that the Philippines is forming to finance the government's petrochemical project in Bataan. She believes that the petrochemical project could be the flagship project of the Bimp-Eaga.

There are actually plenty of opportunities for joint projects between Brunei and the Philippines and what GMA termed the "convergence of competencies." Over the past two days, representatives of the two countries signed several memoranda of understanding on the possible joint exploration of energy sources in the Philippines, and the development of the airline and tourism industries. Cebu Pacific's personnel will be trained by Air Brunei, while more Filipino seamen now can get aboard Bruneian vessels. Air Philippines will fly the Manila-Brunei route twice a week starting November.

* * *

The sultan paid special tribute in his pre-dinner speech to the nearly 21,000 members of the Filipino community in Brunei, who make up almost 7 percent of the population. He thanked the Pinoys for their contribution to its development. Unlike in other countries where Filipino domestics dominate, in Brunei there are engineers, nurses, teachers, factory workers and hotel personnel. All enjoy good pay and treatment, so that Ambassador Ike Zaldivar does not seem to have too many problems.

At the lobby of the Empire Hotel & Country Club, the huge, opulent five-star complex built by the royal family for the Apec summit last November, 200 Filipino employees excitedly waited for GMA, who attended the all-morning conference with Brunei businessmen last Thursday. A Pinoy string trio played "Atin Co Pung Singsing," a Pampango folksong, as she walked in. Sen. Manuel Villar and housing czar Michael Defensor got celebrity treatment from the hotel employees. The management reportedly got a call from the sultan's office to make sure its Filipino personnel were allowed to meet the President.

In the afternoon of GMA's second day in Brunei, about 5,000 Filipinos packed the huge International Convention Center, which was also built for the Apec summit, to meet with GMA and her party. The Pinoys shoved and pushed to be able to touch and grab the hand of GMA, who hailed them as the "overseas Filipino investors" because their multibillion-dollar remittances are propping up our economy. Many of the Filipinos gave up a day's wage just to be able to attend the gathering and most of them arrived at the convention center a half-day early in order to be able to grab seats.

Gen-txt launches an e-revolt

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TYPICAL of their generation, young members of an e-mail advocacy group, who cut their teeth in the anti-Erap protests, have threatened to bombard Smart and Globe with a flood of disgruntled messages to clog up their networks. One particularly incensed customer even requested his cybersavvy friends to "hack" into the networks of PLDT, Smart and Globe.

Now, what could have provoked such murderous cyberterrorism? Texting, that's what. More specifically, the proposal, revealed in what seems to have been a synchronized simultaneous manner by major competitors Smart and Globe, to reduce the number of free text messages enjoyed by subscribers, either pre- or post-paid, of both major cell phone networks.

As the millions of cell-phone owners in this country know, text messages (more accurately referred to as SMS or short messaging system) used to be a mere add-on or extra feature offered free by the cell phone companies. But as Filipinos discovered the convenience and savings of texting (over expensive calls), the firms decided to start charging for text messages as well. The first time they attempted to do this, there was such a flurry of protests that Smart and Globe backed down and said the P1 per text message charge would apply only if a subscriber exceeded the allotment of free messages.

This mollified the mostly young subscribers a little, but it seems to have been only a temporary truce. And now, from out of the blue, comes this synchronized assault from Smart and Globe.

There's no denying the creeping anger and even feelings of betrayal of their youthful market. An early-morning show polled its viewers about the proposed cuts in free text messages and the response was almost 10-1 against the phone firms. "They shouldn't cut down the number of free calls, in fact they should increase it!" a young customer told a TV crew.

* * *

I DON'T think Smart and Globe are handling the bad news the right way, either.

Spokespersons of both companies cite "economic difficulties" for this decision. There was even a veiled threat that if they aren't allowed to cut the number of free text messages, then they might even be forced to increase their charges.

But such sob stories about a decline in income aren't all that credible, given how both companies have been bragging about the tremendous increase in subscriptions and cell phone sales. Then there's the tremendous marketing push that both companies have employed, from full-color spreads in newspapers (I'm not complaining!), to TV campaigns, to promo events and even all sorts of technical innovations, including banking by cell phone. And they say money is hard?

What offends customers all the more is the arbitrary, unilateral manner by which the phone firms arrived at this "compassionate" solution. True, they will have to put their case before the Telecommunications Board. But why announce it without so much as a customer satisfaction survey or a warning to their loyal and eager market?

As the Edsa Dos phenomenon proved, the Philippines is indeed the "text messaging capital of the world." But this same voracious appetite for texting is not limitless. And the telecommunications revolution has already shown the youth's capacity for organizing at a moment's notice, thanks to the same technology they are so hungry for.

For starters, protesters are calling for a "No Text, No Calls" Day on Sept. 1, just to show Smart and Globe the damage that a disgruntled customer base can inflict even on the giants. Can young texters do it?

* * *

"PLEASE write about this proposal because everyone in the entertainment industry is ready to rise in revolt!"

My director friend may be given to dramatics, but this time I don't think he was overstating his case. Show-biz folks are really in a fine fettle over the proposal of the BIR to increase—from 10 percent to 20 percent—the withholding tax to be deducted from their wages every month. Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho argues quite reasonably that this shouldn't necessarily mean a cut in income. Only an increase in the amount of "forced savings" every month, with the government only "advancing" the tax bite, a small nibble at a time, instead of one huge bite at year's end.

But industry leaders don't quite see it that way. For one, they cite, not all entertainers, not even the big earners, earn on a regular basis. They may make a movie or TV special one month, then earn nothing for the next three. "In the meantime, the government would already have taken 20 percent of the funds you were supposed to live on all these months," said an actor.

An equally compelling argument is that not all people working in the arts and entertainment earn on the same level as the best known talents—singers, actors, directors, comedians. Also falling under the classification of "talents" are such working stiffs as camera operators, soundmen, production assistants, even gofers, who do not receive regular salaries and do not enjoy the protection granted by permanent employment.

* * *

ONE suggestion is that the withholding tax rate be "socialized," the 20 percent applied to those earning over a certain amount (I think the suggested amount is P150,000 a month), and 10 percent to the rest. I don't know, this smacks to me of economic discrimination, though confining the application of the new rates only to those in the arts and entertainment is no less discriminatory.

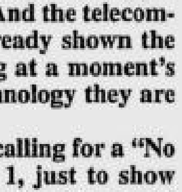
As the organization of artists asks: Why us, and not doctors, architects and other professionals?

The better-known names and faces may be lending the power of their celebrity to the cause, but really, it should be the "little people" in the industry who should make their voices heard loudest and most insistently.

Toward a better understanding of ourselves

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



ACCORDING to Prof. Felipe de Leon, people "interpret all future experience on the basis of the basic programming that we've had from childhood, *mula sa* birth *hanggang siguro mga* one-year-old, at the latest, 3 years old." As Filipinos, our reference point is Southeast Asian and everything else that follows, such as Western influence, is a mere overlay. Thus our thinking is determined by the past, whether we are conscious of it or not. Given the state of education especially in historical matters, the lack of information that reaches the majority, do we know what our past is at this point?

De Leon believes that we have adopted Western opinions about ourselves that are negative and thus fail to see our goodness and strengths as a people. (You may accept or reject that theory in the same manner that some reject the idea of a damaged culture.) He says that the main assumption of our culture is that everything is connected. This is a pan-Asian belief, and this can be seen in our tendency to be sociable. We are not loners, hermits or misanthropes, *mahilig tayo sa tao.* (Note that you seldom see Filipinos eating alone, shopping or going to a play or movie by themselves. Neither does our language have a word for "privacy," which is said to be a Western concept.)

Reviewing the matter further, we see that the *bahay kubo* consists basically of one room where activities are carried out in full view of everybody else. Even in the *bahay na bato,* a much larger structure, there are few bedrooms, and the children did not have individual bedrooms. An extreme example of togetherness was an outhouse with three toilets side by side. Presumably the inhabitants must have enjoyed a bit of gossip while doing their thing!

Indians tend to interpret this oneness "in the continuing search for the human beings as connectedness with the cosmos," which explains, according to De Leon, why India has so many philosophies and religions. The Chinese and the Japanese emphasize man's link with nature. Filipinos, on the other hand, focus on "people-to-people connectedness." Our interpretation has "a social quality, a social dimension" that is not as prominent in other Asian cultures. We believe that all people are one.

This is further explained by Dr. Virgilio Enriquez, the foremost psychologist of Filipino thought, in the concept of *kapwa,* according to De Leon. Who you believe to be another person is actually you. The image used is that of the sun. All of us represent one ray and we are all connected by one *kalooban.* It is only on the superficial level that we are separate entities. If we go deeper into our being we will see other beings. De Leon sees this as a benevolent attitude toward our fellowmen, the basis for *pagkikipagkapwa-tao.*

Fr. Jaime Bulatao, S.J., prefers the image of an egg. Take 10 eggs and fry them one by one in a pan. No one knows where one egg begins and the other ends. The white represents unity and the basis of existence, while the red symbolizes the unique creativity of each person. The Westerner, believing on individualism rather than being a groupie, would be presented as a hard-boiled egg with a protective shell.

This implies that the Westerner is manipulative and out to get what he can and his main concern is himself. He may open a small window to his inner self but he will not open up totally. The highest goal in an individualistic culture is the development of the self, to be as distinct as possible from another. From this flows capitalism, which is "institutionalized selfishness." The individual is secondary to profit. (You understand of course that these are generalizations.)

The Filipino is personalistic, not individualistic. What may be construed as inordinate curiosity—for example, we do not stop at asking someone's name but go on to inquire about his antecedents, how much he earns and the names of all his relatives—but this is really a desire to connect with the other. The Westerner may need the four walls and the Japanese a paper screen for his privacy, but the Filipino can do without barriers. De Leon cites the preference for benches rather than chairs in the provinces because the space for sitting and sharing and readjusting space is more flexible.

Filipinos are performers because from childhood they are expected to sing, dance or recite for their elders but this is because the ability to tell a story or a joke well as well as to dance is a good way to connect to others. De Leon maintains that the Filipino relates to the world with all his senses and excels in interpersonal intelligence. And he is also good in teamwork.

For us everything is alive, a belief which can be traced back to our animistic beliefs, and this extends to our sensitivity, our *pakiramdam.* The Filipino communicates in a non-verbal manner. You know he will not attend a function when he answers "maybe" or "we'll see." Although Westerners see this as a lack of directness and frankness, the answer is actually more evident in how something is said than what is said. So don't order us around. You will get much further with *pakiusap.*

Of clowns and firecrackers

YOUNGBLOOD

Danica L. Salazar

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

JUST like my best ideas, troubling conclusions often come to me at the unlikeliest of moments. One such rude awakening came when I was at my cousin's seventh birthday party a couple of weeks ago. I came with my mother and my aunt, and since it was a children's affair, we brought with us another cousin who was 4 years old.

We dolled her up in her Sunday best. We were sure she was going to be the prettiest among the little girls at the party. Imagine our surprise when, even before we reached the second floor of the restaurant where the party was being held, my usually delightful little cousin began screaming, writhing and clawing at us like a child possessed.

Then we saw the reason for this sudden fit: three brightly dressed clowns were smiling broadly at us from across the room. We almost toppled down the stairs as we tried to calm my terrified cousin. It took us a while before we were able to quell her frantic efforts to rush out of the building into the busy street outside. We dragged her small, shaking body to a table farthest from where the clowns stood, and for most of the party she sat there in that corner with her face on the tabletop and her arms over her head. Needless to say, she did not enjoy the party very much.

I looked at the trembling, curled up little ball that was my cousin with a mixture of irritation and amusement. Of course, I knew it was stupid of her to be so afraid of three perfectly normal guys whose job required them to wear weird makeup, flashy clothes and floppy wigs. Seventeen years of living have taught me that much at least.

But my cousin was still a child, and being one she had a right to have at least one irrational fear. After all, as my mother reminded me, I did have my own irrational fear once. Maybe I even still have it.

That observation brought a smile to my face. Oh yes, firecrackers. Firecrackers were my one irrational fear, and I must admit they still are to some degree. The very smell of gunpowder can send me shaking uncontrollably, and to actually witness a firecracker being lit and then exploding is too much for me to bear. There is no need for me to say that I don't enjoy New Year's Eve very much.

And then came that cruel moment. My cousin wasn't able to enjoy an otherwise fun party because of her silly little fear. I wasn't able to make much of a series of otherwise enjoyable New Year's Eves because of my own silly little fear. And yet I may have other silly little fears than just that one about fireworks. How many silly little fears do I really have?

On Friday nights I would watch crime shows. The next day, I would be afraid of being kidnapped, raped or murdered, depending on what was featured on the show the night before. Some days I would have a splitting headache and become terribly afraid that I might have brain cancer, or worse. On enrollment days, I would be apprehensive, afraid that before I reach the university I would be robbed and would have no more money to pay for my schooling. On some occasions my computer would hang, and I would be instantly afraid that it had been infected with the deadliest, incurable virus.

How many contests did I not join because of my fear of losing? How many chances to have new friends did I let pass because of my fear of rejection? How many opportunities did I miss because of my fear of failing?

I'm sure I'm not the only one who ever felt this way. Sometimes we get too caught up with the many "what-ifs" of everyday living that we don't realize how these seemingly natural and simple fears can distort our view of ourselves, of others and of the world. Fear prevents us from taking chances as they come, from seeing the beauty of the world and everything in it, of taking charge of our lives and living them to the fullest.

But just as my cousin gave me a dark thought, she also gave me a ray of hope. Some time after the party began, with some gentle coaxing from us, she finally was able to relax. Her childlike fortitude and cheerful nature allowed her to overcome her fear. Soon she was laughing, and looking at the clowns with a tentative, but brave, smile.

I think everyone of us who harbor some fears can learn a lesson from this. Sure, it's hard to be very optimistic during these troubled and critical times, what with all the political upheavals and kidnappings and other violent crimes. But with a strong faith in God, we can break free from our fears and weather all the storms that come our way.

Maybe in the next birthday party she will attend, my cousin can still hold on to her brave smile and look at the clowns straight in the eye. And maybe, next New Year's Eve, I will manage to get a very long stick, go out and light a baby rocket or two.

Danica L. Salazar, 17, is a freshman at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO. . .?

Cebu mayor's murder case

MAYOR Crisologo Abines of Samboan, Cebu, was allegedly attacked by Pompio Bureros on March 21, 1999 during an illegal cockfight in Santander where Abines' son, James, was mayor. Abines was shot in the buttocks and Bureros, a retired soldier, was killed by SPO1 Roque Paras.

Bureros was employed as a security officer of a fishing company competing against Abines' fishing enterprise. The police report said Bureros was armed with a handgun and just suddenly fired at the mayor.

But on April 26, 1999, the National Bureau of Investigation in Central Visayas filed a murder complaint against Abines, Paras and two other suspects with the provincial prosecutor's office. Three witnesses claimed Abines and his co-accused pinned down Bureros before Paras shot him. The motive could be business rivalry, the NBI said.

Bureros could not have possibly started the shooting, the NBI report said. The postmortem report of the NBI medico-legal officer said Bureros was at least 12 inches lower than his assailant when he was shot.

The Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas took over the preliminary investigation of the case on April 28, 1999. Abines and his two bodyguards were suspended for six months by the Ombudsman on May 3, 1999.

On Aug. 18, 1999, all four accused were charged with murder before the Sandiganbayan.

The court ordered the prosecutor to conduct a reinvestigation on Dec. 20. And on March 7, 2000, prosecutor Florita Cinco issued a resolution dismissing the charges against Abines and recommending the filing of homicide charges against the three other accused.

This recommendation was rejected by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto on Sept. 15, 2000. He instead approved a memorandum dated May 25, 2000 submitted by legal counsel Laarni Parayno, junking Cinco's resolution and recommending amendments to the information sheet to drop the allegation of evident premeditation. The amended information was admitted on Sept. 28.

The court ordered the arrest of the suspects on Oct. 24, but recalled it two days later "pending judicial determination of probable cause." On Oct. 30, the prosecutors sought the inhibition of Justice Edilberto Sandoval, chair of the Second Division, due to alleged extreme bias and former association with the defense counsel. He inhibited himself on Nov. 20 and the cases were raffled off to the Third Division.

The defense panel filed a motion to withhold the issuance of warrants of arrest. It was submitted for resolution on Jan. 29, 2001.

Case status: The court denied the motion on May 11, 2001 and ordered the arrest of the accused. It also issued a hold departure order for the accused. *Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department*

Masters of the people

WHAT happened during the Senate hearing where the invited witness, Ador Mawanay was ordered detained by our "honorable" senators for answering their questions, simply shows how out of touch our senators are with the public. Either that or they just didn't care what the public's reaction would be.

It was another example of the real condition of politics in this country, where public officials are not servants of the people. In reality, once elected, they are the masters of he people.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Loren Legarda have shown us their true colors. For that, we should be thankful. All those thinking voters out there, take note.

What were the reasons for their action? All personal, I am sure. No one was thinking of the national interest, or of the Senate's reputation. Pimentel because of his *sama ng loob* that he was not supported by the administration in his bid to keep the Senate presidency in spite of the fact that he held the microphone during President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's oath-taking. And Legarda? Well, she has her eyes focused on running for the presidency in 2004.

In politics, *baligtaran* is par for the course. How else can you explain Agapito Aquino's support for Joseph Estrada? Or Sergio Osmeña's going over to the opposition just like that, culminating in his filibuster, all because he did not want a fellow senator to get a second committee chairmanship?

Saints grow horns and devils become angels, so who can you trust? Who will you vote for?

LETTERS

Now, I know one thing. I will not vote for Pimentel, the two Osmeñas, Legarda and Franklin Drilon. What these people do best is grandstanding and all their actions are for their own personal interests and the country be damned.—**DOMINADOR C. UY, 114 B. Gonzales St., Xavierville, Quezon City**

Commuting made easy

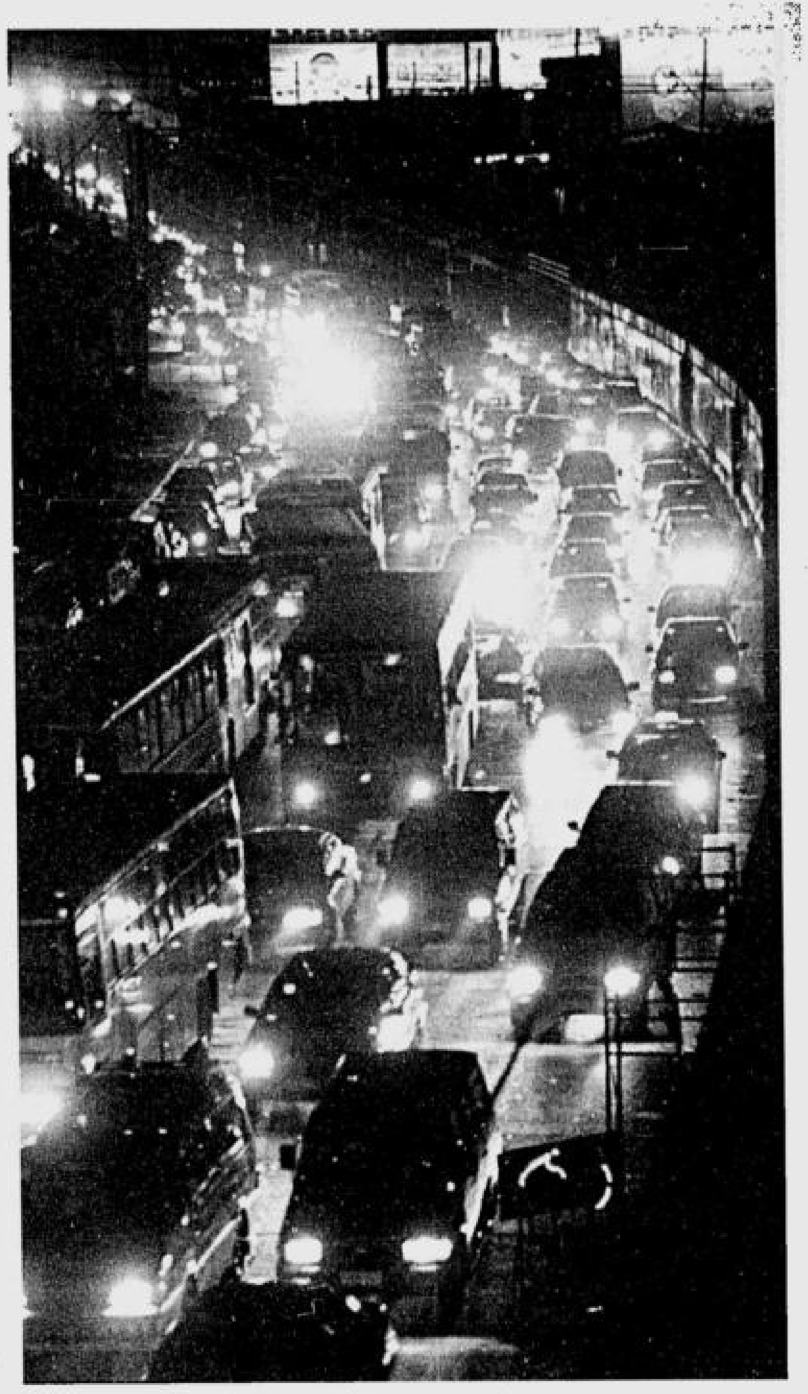
HEAVY traffic is probably one of our country's seemingly unsolvable problems despite all the efforts being put trying to solve it. The government has been trying various schemes that don't seem to even make a dent.

And despite the thousands of cars, jeeps and buses on the streets, commuters still find themselves stranded after a few minutes of rain.

Unknown to us, the solution is right under our noses, or rather, right above our heads. During the Marcos administration before the Light Rail Transit was built, the flimsy argument that it would be "defiling" Taft Avenue by being an eyesore was put forward. Today I can't even conceive the chaos on Taft if there were no LRT.

And then came the Metro Rail Transit. The MRT is very convenient and quite affordable. It saves a lot of time and gas. My officemates who are in our car pool have convinced me of the joys of traveling on the MRT. Because of this, I now prefer to commute than to drive a car.

I believe that it is this overhead rail transit that is the solution to our country's traffic and transportation problems. Imagine having a network of aboveground or even underground rail stations. That would be a commuter's dream scenario. If commuting were to be made this easy, I'm sure it would convert a lot of drivers like me into commuters, and inevitably alleviate the traffic problem.—**MONINA R. GOSUICO, 8 Maaralin St., Teachers' Village, Quezon City**



Lawyers judging a fellow lawyer

I REFER to your story about two lawyers who were allegedly dismayed by my decision to represent Kim Wong. (PDI, 8/17/01)

I have been practicing law for 30 years and I have never sat in moral judgment over cases handled and clients represented by other lawyers. I was thus completely taken aback when Romeo Capulong and Leonardo de Vera ("legal eagles," huh) criticized me for accepting Wong's case. They seem to have convicted Wong because he is associated with Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

I am terribly disappointed. Wong is innocent or entitled to such presumption, at the very least.

Let me respond to Capulong. I have never sat in judgment over his representing some clients. I never prejudged his clients' guilt either on the merits or by mere association with another person. I did not judge him when he decided to accept the case of Don Ferry who was included in the ill-gotten wealth case as a crony of Ferdinand Marcos. Capulong claims his client is not a Marcos crony, but that precisely he is the opposite of what the government maintains.

I likewise did not sit in judgment on his decision not to accept the $150-million settlement in the human rights cases in the United States. I did not venture any suggestion that his refusal was because of a "much deeper reason" of bigger lawyer's fees. How in heaven's name can he suggest that it was Lacson who asked me to lawyer for Wong? Since this mess was started by Col. Victor Corpus, I have never talked to Lacson either in person or by phone.

Let me now respond to De Vera. I did not sit in judgment over his decision to return to the Philippines (obviously for good) after resigning from the California Bar when several disbarment cases were filed against him. I did not sit in judgment over him every time he publicly moralizes on issues despite my knowledge of information that would totally destroy his credibility.

Both Capulong and De Vera claim that they were misquoted by Inquirer reporter, Christian V. Esguerra, and that they never made those statements attributed to them. Capulong has made the clarification on radio, while De Vera has called me up to apologize and clarify the matter. Nonetheless, I feel constrained to bring these matters out for the benefit of your readers who may have been misled by either false reporting by the Inquirer reporter or baseless denials by the so-called "legal eagles."

Romy, Nards, *walang ganyanan*.—**FRANCISCO I. CHAVEZ, 7th Floor, Kalaw-Ledesma Condominium, 117 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

ROMEO Capulong and Leonardo de Vera were not misquoted, and they know it. Perhaps they felt obliged to retract their statements after their colleague cried foul.—**Christian V. Esguerra**

What evidence does the Senate need?

IF I am not mistaken, Col. Victor Corpus clearly stated in the Senate hearing that it is for the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice to gather and produce the evidence in support of his intelligence findings.

Corpus further claimed that there exists a memorandum of agreement between his agency, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, the NBI and the DOJ.

As regards the witnesses invited by the Senate to testify in "aid of legislation," is it correct to expect that all of them bring the evidence to back their charges?

We have to accept the fact that certain crimes do not leave a paper trail or cannot be documented. After all, criminals do not sign any document that he or she killed so and so. How are crimes to be documented? What kind of evidence does the Senate require?

I have always been of the opinion that as far as crimes are concerned, two or more eyewitnesses suffice to convict a criminal or criminals. Isn't it a fact that Corpus has several witnesses lined up in support of his findings?

Haven't the DOJ and NBI announced on several occasions that they are in the process of finalizing all the necessary documentation?

I myself was a victim of arrest and detention by Congress in 1996 when I was held in contempt for simply answering back at those congressmen who were playing God and shouting at me during a hearing on the lotto. Thus, I cannot help but ask the Senate for answers to these questions for the sake of clarification, or as Sen. Robert Jaworski would repeatedly say in Senate hearings, "for my enlightenment."—**MANUEL L. MORATO, Doña Consuelo Bldg., 192-194 Tomas B. Morato Ave., Quezon City**

Substandard drugs are the issue

THIS refers to Joan M. Marcelino's letter last Aug. 4, titled: "Wrong to pin blame on use of generic drug."

First, we are confused, to say the least, about what the letter was all about. If Marcelino had checked her details instead of casting aspersions on Dr. Lesaca's character, which was not the issue, but the use of substandard generic drugs, she would have known that Dr. Lesaca sat for over 10 years as a member of the Department of Health National Drug Committee. This is the committee that evaluates and assigns what drugs go into the formulary to be used and procured nationally and in a rational matter.

Dr. Lesaca is one of the most credible and nationalistic medical practitioners in the country. He is in fact one of the most supportive advocates of the Generics Law. Moreover, he sits in various government interagency committees that provide him with facts to work upon and not opinions. Dr. Lesaca is one of the most transparent doctors with a conscience who calls a spade a spade.

Secondly, Marcelino labeled medical practitioners as corrupt and inept. We feel genuine sorrow for her if she has never met a good doctor. Doctors do have the right to speak up if they see that medicines have caused harm or did not work, like what happened in this case.

Finally, she said the Bureau of Food and Drugs is doing its job. If this is true, why are fake and substandard medicines proliferating in the market? Why are medicine prices high? Why do the public and the practitioners still doubt the quality of generic drugs?

These are some of the basic questions we hope she will answer in behalf of the BFAD.—**MADELEINE VALERA, M.D., Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

Adult trailers in movies for everyone

HOW many times have you watched a general patronage (GP) movie with your children, thinking that it is safe and only to be bombarded during the intermission with trailers of parental guidance (PG) and even restricted (R) movies?

I wonder who is responsible for correcting this terrible practice. Is it the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board or is it the local government units?

I think it should be the local executives, but on top of that, I also think that the owners of movie houses should have their own watchdog, similar to that of the Kapisanan ng Mga Broadcasters sa Pilipinas.

Perhaps what we have here is a case of movie house owners who either do not care, or do not know that this terrible practice is going on. If indeed they do not know, then this could just be a simple case of mismanagement, or perhaps the lack of it.

I hate to think that movie house owners (or managers, as the case may be) actually know but do not care. That's because they don't want to miss the opportunity to advertise sex and violence to the parents, who are after all the target audience of the adult trailers.

From a management perspective, this could be a case of missing a point in supply chain management. Everyone is looking at parts of the whole, but no one is looking at the holistic objective of protecting minors with everything it takes. From a government perspective, this could be a case of an oversight in policy integration. Without policy integration, the result is policy fragmentation. Retail, not wholesale.

Since the national government is too far from the frontlines of movie houses all over the country, this burden should be placed in the hands of local executives. They not only have better control over the great number of locations, they also have a better feel of the problem, being there where the citizens (or the victims, actually) are.—**IKE SEÑERES, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City**

What is there to say between Peres and Arafat?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Christian Chaise

JERUSALEM—Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who is due to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, is facing an uphill struggle to bring an end to nearly 11 months of bloodshed and violence.

The two sides have at bottom fundamentally incompatible views on the conditions for a ceasefire, and are locked in a Catch-22 situation in which each wants the other to take the first step before a truce can take effect.

The Palestinians want political concessions from Israel before ending their armed uprising against the Jewish state, which for its part says the violence must stop before any political negotiations can begin.

"We know from previous attempts that there is no way in which you can stop the violence without dealing with its political causes. So it's very difficult to be optimistic," says Palestinian analyst Ghassan al-Khatib.

As the Palestinian Al-Qods paper put it Wednesday: "The most important question is whether the talks will only touch on security questions or whether they will also get down to politics."

No exact date has been set for the meeting between Arafat and Peres, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize for the signing of the 1993 Oslo accords but have seen little progress on the ground in the eight years since.

The negotiations, announced Tuesday after the intervention of German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, are expected to be held in Berlin, perhaps as early as next week.

The Israeli press has reported that Peres will push Arafat toward a phased ceasefire beginning in the Gaza Strip before extending it to parts of the West Bank. In exchange, Arafat will want an end to the crippling Israeli army blockade of the Palestinian territories that has severely damaged the Palestinian economy and made everyday life a nightmare for most Palestinians.

Peres got the green light from Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to discuss a ceasefire with Arafat, but the Palestinians will be wondering just how much leeway he has to speak for the Israeli government.

Sharon advisor Dore Gold tried to play down those concerns in an interview with AFP, saying: "The prime minister has fully coordinated with the foreign minister with respect to these proposals."

"Israel has no interest in the unnecessary suffering of the Palestinian population," he said. "To the contrary, it seeks to draw a distinction between those engaged in violence and terrorism and the vast majority of Palestinians who are not interested in any conflict with Israel."

The idea of a gradual ceasefire seems to be a climb-down from Sharon's earlier hard-line position, which could be interpreted by the Palestinians as a sign of weakness. That could be the reason Sharon again insisted Wednesday that Israel will not go back to the negotiating table until there is a complete and total halt to Palestinian attacks for seven days, as previously agreed.

But many Palestinians see it as Sharon simply stalling on implementation of the Mitchell report, an internationally supported blueprint aimed at getting the two sides back to peace talks. They say Israel is particularly opposed to putting into effect a key measure in the Mitchell plan: a freeze on Israeli settlement building in the occupied territories.

"Our problem is a political problem. It's the occupation," says Khatib. "We have to get something regarding the occupation. We don't want to have comfortable economic lives and the occupation. We want to see signs, steps that will make us confident that the occupation is being at least discussed."

He notes that Sharon has in the past blocked his dovish foreign minister from negotiating the most basic questions in the conflict, which has left more than 730 people dead since September. And that, says Khatib, will make it nearly impossible for Arafat to control already unruly militant groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad and get them to lay down their arms.

"If anybody can get Arafat a complete cessation of settlement activities, then Arafat can be influential in terms of stopping violence," says Khatib. "Now, he has nothing to take." *AFP*

YOU spokesperson no longer in active service

THIS pertains to the pronouncement made by Young Officers Union (YOU) spokesperson, Capt. Baron Cervantes, to the members of the media. According to the records at the Philippine Army headquarters, Cervantes is at present not a member of this organization and has been out of the service since 1993 when he was still a first lieutenant. As such, his statements do not represent the sentiments of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

We would also like to take this opportunity to state that the officers, men, women and civilian employees of the Philippine Army under the command of Lt. Gen. Jaime S. de los Santos are supportive and solidly behind the leadership of the AFP and Department of National Defense.—**LT. COL. JOSE Z. MABANTA JR., Army chief of public affairs, Headquarters Philippine Army, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Makati City**

GMA violated the Constitution

I COMMEND Lorenzo Jamiana and Edward P. Lagramada, who wrote to various newspapers, for showing interest in the absolute constitutional restrictions on foreign ownership and management of mass media and the cap on foreign ownership of telecommunications facilities, such as PLDT and Nextel. While they may now be looking at our efforts as mere "grandstanding," their effort to participate in the public debate nonetheless shows that every Congress is the people's forum even for widely diverse views.

That said, let me make some quick clarifications for the two like-minded gentlemen.

First, the 1987 Constitution is clear that no foreign-owned company, like PLDT, can acquire and/or manage mass media, like GMA Network Inc. It is the primary mandate of Congress to see to it that there are adequate laws to enforce this constitutional limit and make sure those laws are honored and respected.

Second, we have reason to believe that the constitutional limitation has been violated in the sale of GMA Network to a PLDT subsidiary.

Third, PLDT was acquired by the Salim Group of Indonesia through the Metro Pacific Group in 1998, a transaction attempted by several past administrations but successfully consummated during the watch of former President Joseph Estrada. We need to know, too, the particulars of that acquisition.

We commend the foresight of the framers of the 1987 Constitution, who recognized the overarching influence of mass media in the state's political and cultural affairs and saw the need to limit media ownership and management solely to Filipinos.

Although highly unlikely, when GMA Network starts broadcasting in Bahasa Indonesia, Jamiana and Lagramada will perhaps know the difference between grandstanding and congressional vigilance.

In any case, I will make representations with the committee on franchises to invite them to the public hearing which will be calendared soon.—**REP. ANICETO G. SALUDO JR., Lone District, Southern Leyte**

A proper place for everything

IT is a pity that we have a public official who, instead of helping lift the morale of the military in the Abu Sayyaf crisis, is actually adding to the problem. We are referring to a lawmaker who issued a statement calling for the immediate resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva for their "alleged" incompetence in solving the Abu Sayyaf problem.

Since day one of the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking crisis, we have seen how these two officers showed their commitment, effectiveness and sincerity in handling the Mindanao situation. We have also seen the extensive operations the military has launched against the bandit group. We have seen on television the difficulties they encountered since the enemies are not just plain, simple bandits but are well-organized, well-armed and well trained and know very well the terrain. Despite these difficulties, our Armed Forces have been able to fight back, arrest some of the leaders and contain the situation. Is this not enough for us to at least praise and recognize the AFP rather than suggest something that would only weaken, confuse and make the military ineffective?

There is a proper forum for everything. Why not use Congress to block the confirmation of the appointments of Reyes and Villanueva if they are really incompetent, incapable and ineffective? Once and for all, let us stop pointing fingers and blaming each other for whatever shortcomings we encounter. What we need at this time is for the entire Filipino nation to work together in harmony.—**VICTORACION C. ABUEVA, 90 Maginhawa St., Diliman, Quezon City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Israeli tanks assault Palestinian-ruled area

HEBRON, West Bank—In a show of military might, Israeli forces thrust deep into a Palestinian-ruled area of the West Bank city of Hebron and blew up two houses yesterday in retaliation for an attack that wounded an 11-year-old boy.

The overnight incursion into Abu Sneineh, a strategic rise from which gunmen fire on Jewish settlements in the heart of the divided city, cast further doubt on fragile efforts to arrange talks on a truce in nearly 11 months of fighting.

Aides to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat branded the assault an act of aggression by the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and vowed to step up the uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli Army, which withdrew after three hours, said the two houses had been used by Palestinian snipers and warned it might permanently occupy the area if shooting persisted.

It conducted the raid, the latest in a series of ground assaults into Palestinian territory, after a bullet fired from Abu Sneineh injured an off-duty soldier, the son of a settler family, and then carried on to wound his 11-year-old brother.

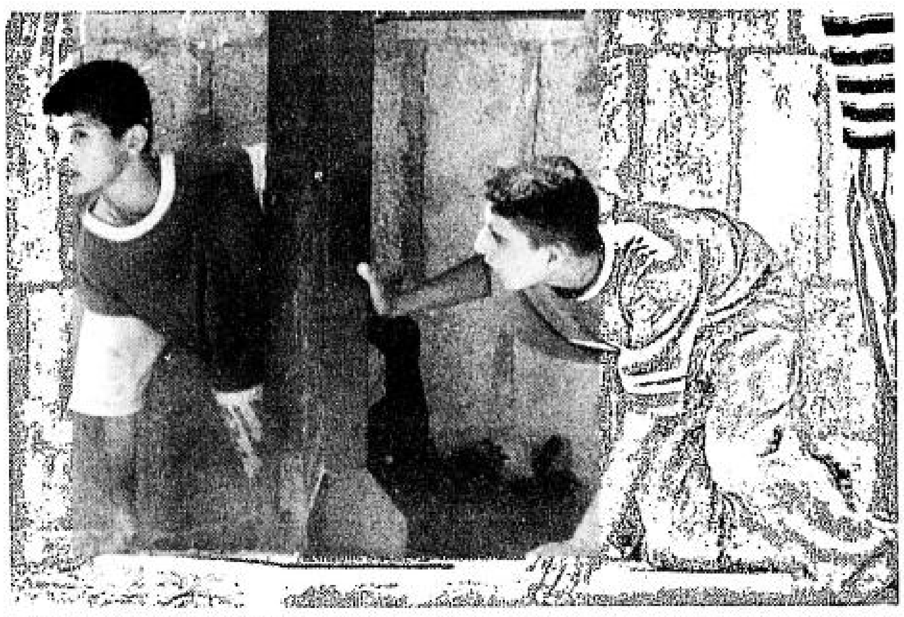
"We carried out a limited operation to solve a specific problem and indicate that we have no problem going up there when there is a problem that is insufferable," Deputy Chief of Staff Moshe Yaalon told Israel Radio.

"It is possible we may need to stay up there in order to ensure totally there is no firing from the hills (but) at the moment we have no intention of doing that," Yaalon said.

Hebron, sacred to Jews and Muslims as the burial place of the biblical patriarch Abraham, was a flashpoint of violence long before the Palestinian uprising broke out last September after peace talks stalled.

Israel handed much of the city to Palestinian rule in 1997 under an interim peace deal, but kept control of its ancient center, where some 500 radical settlers live in heavily guarded enclaves in the midst of 30,000 Palestinians.

Palestinian security sources said two Palestinians were killed in a gunfight with troops after armored personnel carriers took over the Abu Sneineh area at about 11 p.m. on Thursday, but hospitals did not confirm the deaths. *Reuters*



PALESTINIAN boys take cover during a gun battle between Palestinians and Israeli tanks, which entered the Palestinian self-ruled town of Deir al-Balah in southern central Gaza Strip Aug. 23.

REUTERS

Annan urgesa new approach to Taliban

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has advised the Security Council to adopt a new approach toward Afghanistan, based on incentives as well as punitive measures, UN sources said Thursday.

Diplomats said this amounted to an appeal to the United States and Russia to look beyond their own concerns with terrorist acts linked to Afghanistan.

In a report to the council, Annan said the roots of the conflict were that the people of Afghanistan had no representative government, and that other countries continued to interfere in their affairs.

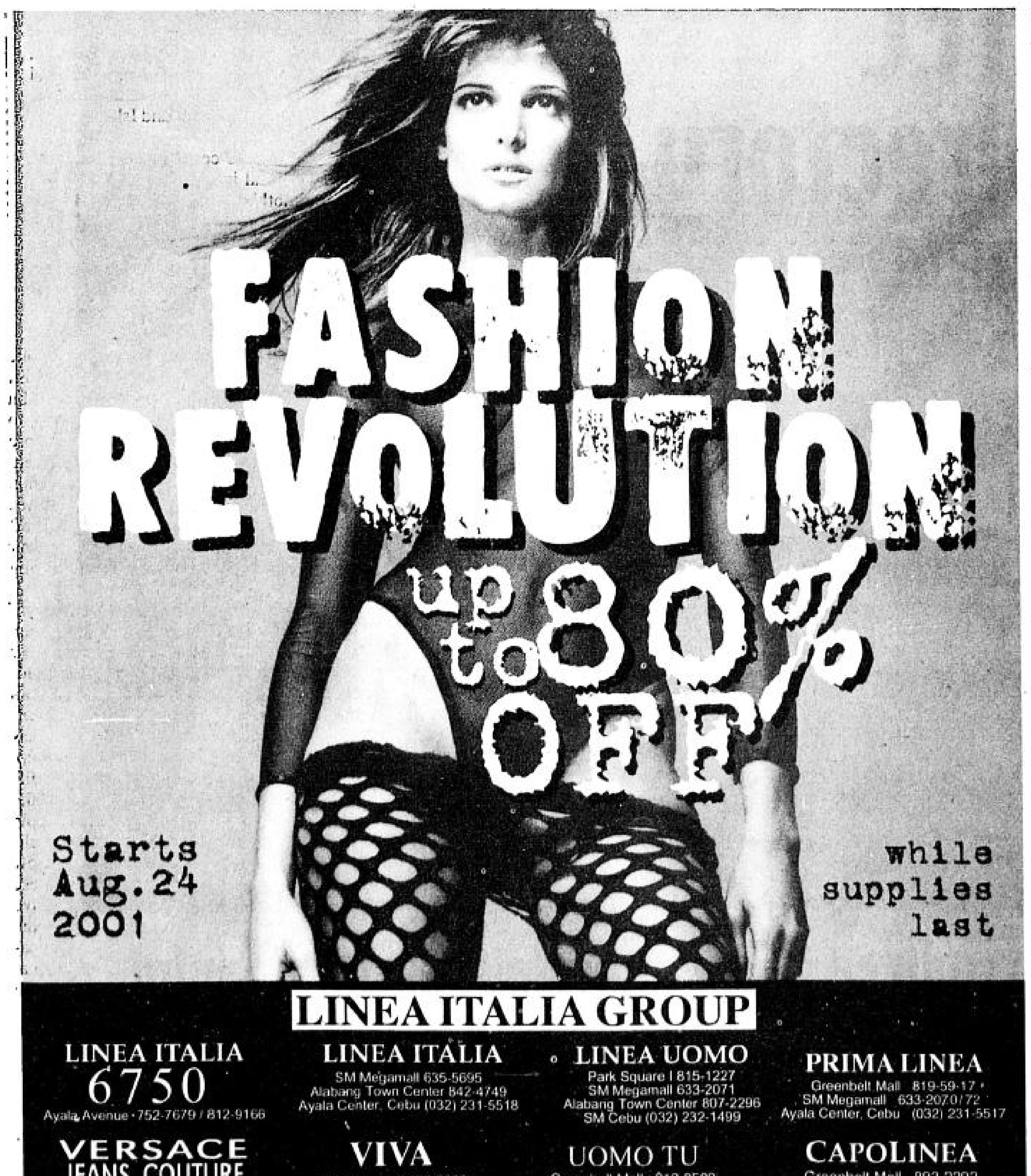
The report made little direct reference to UN sanctions imposed on the ruling Taliban militia at the behest of Russia and the United States, but it said they should be "clearly seen as a means to an end."

Last year, the council imposed an air embargo and an arms ban and froze the Taliban's foreign assets, in an effort to force it to surrender the alleged Saudi terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Bin Laden was indicted on 224 counts of murder in the United States after twin bomb attacks on two US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya on Aug. 7, 1998.

Annan said there had been "no progress on the Taliban's position regarding Osama bin Laden," nor on the council's demand that the militia close down "all camps where terrorists are trained within the territory under its control."

One UN official said: "the idea of a new approach has been floated for nearly a year in informal consultations with council members." He said he expected the council to resume discussions on Afghanistan in October. *Reuters*



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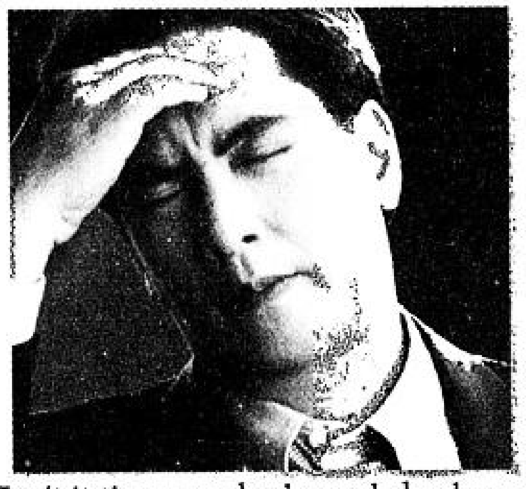

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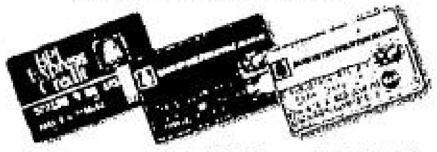

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Condit denies harming Levy in media offensive

CONDIT

MODESTO, California—Embattled US Congressman Gary Condit launched a media offensive Thursday, denying he had caused any harm to Chandra Levy, a former US government intern who has been missing four almost four months.

But his answers, in an ABC television interview, shed little light on many unanswered questions surrounding the investigation into the mysterious disappearance of the 24-year-old woman.

The 53-year-old Democrat, who is married and has two grown children, admitted having "a close relationship" with the intern but repeatedly refused to go into specifics.

"I've been married for 34 years, and uh, I've not been a perfect man, and I've made my share of mistakes," Condit said.

"But out of respect for my family, and out of a specific request from the Levy family, I think it's best that I not get into those details about Chandra Levy," he added.

He repeated this line at least three times.

Levy, who came to Washington last year for an internship at the US Bureau of Prisons, was last seen at a downtown Washington gym April 30.

Police officers have combed local parks and abandoned buildings, questioned Levy's relatives, friends and taxi drivers, and even searched Condit's apartment—without getting any breakthrough.

Condit himself has been questioned by police four times in connection with the case, but police have repeatedly stressed that he is not a suspect in the disappearance.

During one of these interviews, Condit admitted to having sexual relations with Levy, according to media reports citing police sources.

But on Thursday, Condit refused to confirm or deny these reports.

"I'm not going to go into the aspects and the details . . . of the investigation or the interviews," he said.

Condit, who is a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said he had met Levy in Washington and that their relationship had lasted five months.

He said the young woman aspired to land a job in one of the US intelligence or counterintelligence agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. *AFP*

Brazil begins copying anti-AIDS drug after junking its patent

RIO DE JANEIRO—Brazil's decision to disregard patent protections and begin manufacturing a generic version of a powerful anti-AIDS drug could open the way for other developing countries to follow suit, experts said Thursday.

On Wednesday, Brazil became the first country to strip the patent on an anti-AIDS medication. Health Minister Jose Serra said government laboratories would begin manufacturing Nelfinavir, an anti-AIDS drug made by the Roche group and sold under the trade name Viracept.

Serra justified the move, saying six months of negotiations with Roche failed to lower the drug's price sufficiently for Brazil to be able to distribute the drug free of charge to all in need.

Brazil, has the highest number of AIDS victims in Latin America, with about 203,000 people suffering from the disease.

Mark Weisbrot, co-director of the Center for Economic Policy and Research, a Washington-based think-tank, hailed Brazil's decision and said it could prompt other countries to do the same.

"I think you're going to see more developing countries resisting these attempts to enforce the US patent law all over the world. Very often, this is the case: When one country challenges these laws, the US backs down," he said.

Weisbrot points to US decisions to back away from attempts at stricter patent enforcement on AIDS drugs in South Africa and Brazil.

Earlier this year, the United States dropped a complaint with the World Trade Organization over clauses in Brazil's intellectual property law that require drug companies to begin manufacturing the drug in-country within three years after the patent is issued, or risk losing it.

The law also contains clauses that allow patents to be stripped in cases of national emergency or when the company has been judged to employ abusive pricing. Serra used the abusive pricing clause in justifying Wednesday's move.

Roche spokesperson Daniel Piller said the company was not expecting Brazil's latest move.

"We were surprised to hear the news from the Brazilian government. We really think the government of Brazil is really committed to combating this dreadful disease, and in our point of view, we are still in negotiations with the Health Ministry," Piller said by telephone from the company's headquarters in Switzerland.

Piller noted that Roche sells Viracept in Brazil for 50 percent less than the US wholesale price and provides a pediatric version of the drug free of charge.

He also said Roche planned to begin producing Viracept in Brazil in 2002.

The Health Minister did leave the door open for future agreements, such as the one Brazil recently reached with Merck Sharp & Dohme to reduce prices of two AIDS medications by 70 percent.

"The company can evidently announce in the next few weeks that it will revise this agreement to meet our needs. They can still do this, but we won't wait for them, and we will begin production," Serra told reporters in Brasilia.

Serra said the country's weakening currency, which dropped from around 1.90 reals to the US dollar in January to around 2.50 reals to the dollar Thursday, was a factor in the government's decision. *AP*

STRUGGLING AGAINST LIBERTY REUTERS

French stuntman Terry Do snares his paraglider on the torch of the Statue of Liberty in New York Aug. 23. Do was arrested after attempting to land his paraglider on the torch part of the statue. He spent 40 minutes dangling from the statue after his sail got snared.

Now comes the skiing robot

TOKYO—Some robots can walk on two legs or even shake a leg and talk. Now here is one that can perform the somersaults and twists of freestyle skiing.

Japan's robot engineering is going in all directions and the aerial-ski robot can be used for operations in space, Kazuo Yoshida, a professor at Tokyo's Keio University, said yesterday.

"I was interested in aerial performances, as in gymnastics and skiing, from the viewpoint of sports dynamics," Yoshida said as he explained his invention—which stands 50 cm (20 inches) tall and weighs 4.3 kg.

"I also saw parallels in performances in space and the (freestyle somersaulting) techniques can be applied to robot control in space," the 51-year-old professor of mechanical engineering added.

The robot, an aluminum head and body sporting yellow ski goggles astride a pair of short plastic skis, is radio controlled and hurls itself at about 7.5 meters per second from a ramp to perform a one-second aerial stunt.

"We are aiming to develop a self-sustaining, high-performance robot which can adapt its performance to change in the environment, like in continuous snow," the professor said.

"We want to make a robot more beautiful and awesome than human beings in performance." *AFP*

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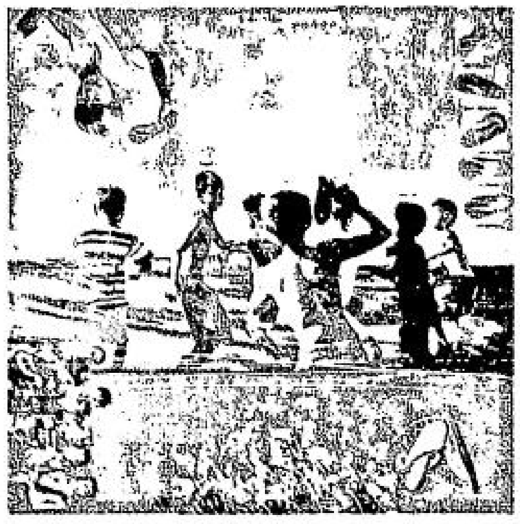
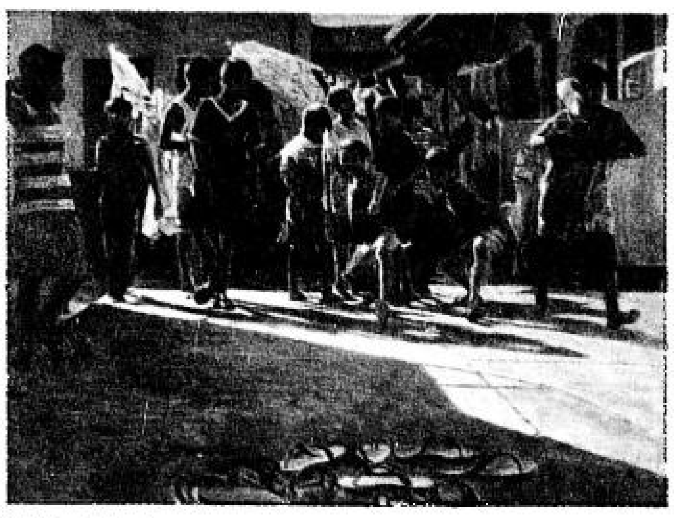
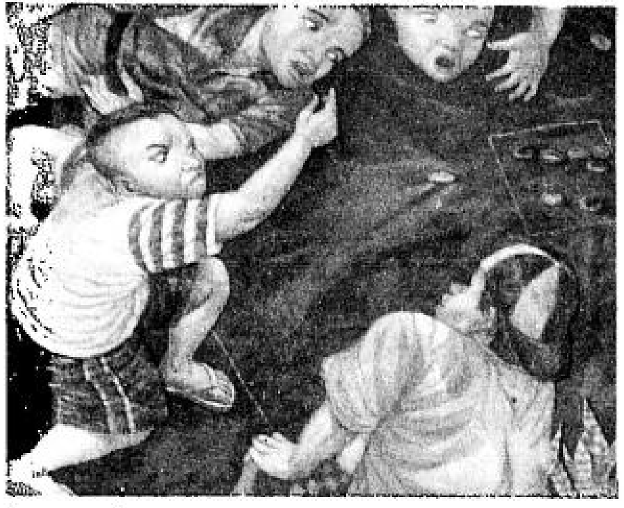


"Manwal"
Oil on canvass, 48" x 48"
by Robert Nelson V. Besana
PWU Manila

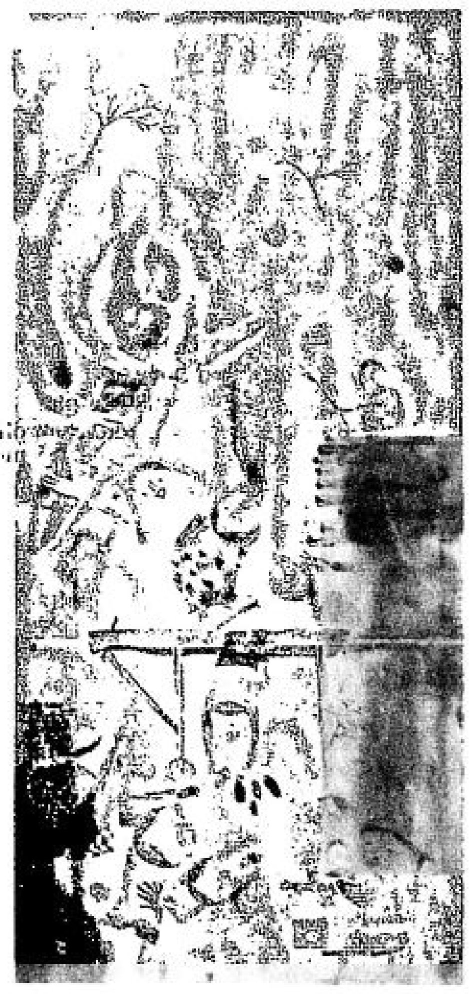


"Ober-Ober"
Oil on canvass, 36" x 48"
by Orley Y. Ypon
Casa Gorordo Museum

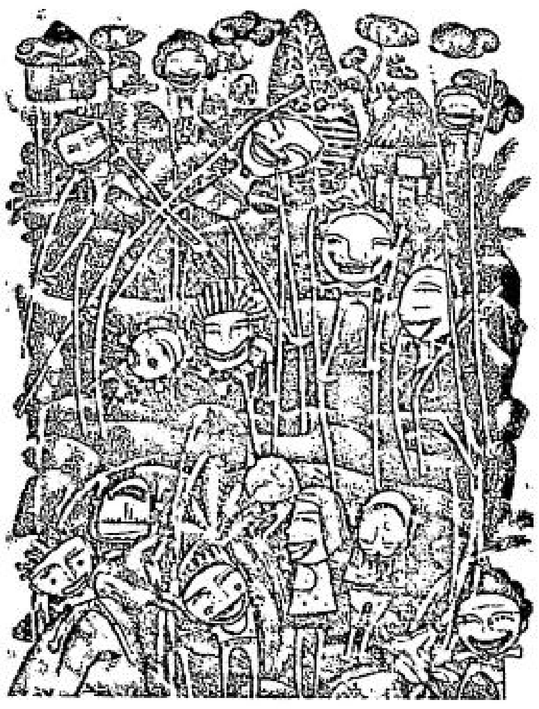


"Tatsing"
Oil on canvass, 34.5" x 43"
by Romeo Jose E. Rosete III
UP Baguio

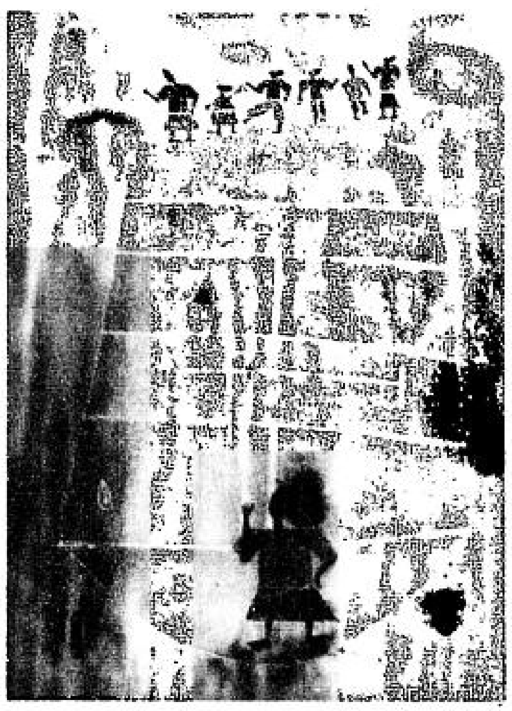
Watercolor Category Winners



"Karera ng Tsinelas"
Watercolor on paper, 22" x 46"
by Romeo R. Forbes Jr.
UE Caloocan



"Sa Kanlungan ng Kamusmusan"
Watercolor on paper, 30" x 40"
by Ricky V. Ambagan
UP Diliman



"Piko: Alay Kay Mahal"
Watercolor on paper, 22" x 29"
by Yveese J. Belen
UST

Contest winners are (from left to right) : Ricky Ambagan, Romeo Forbes Jr., Yveese Belen, Romeo Rosete III, Robert Besana and Orley Ypon

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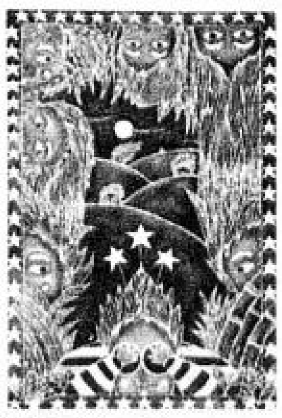
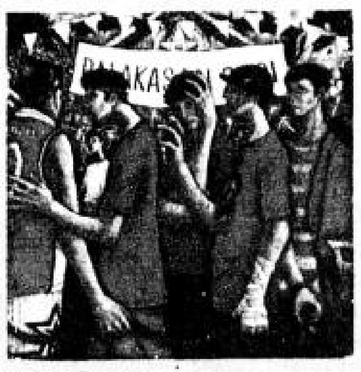
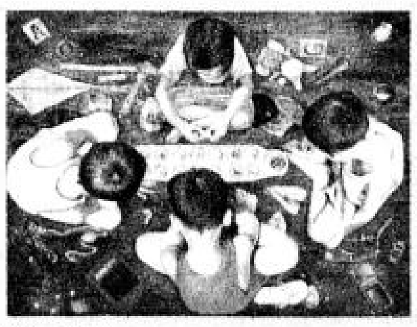
runners-up



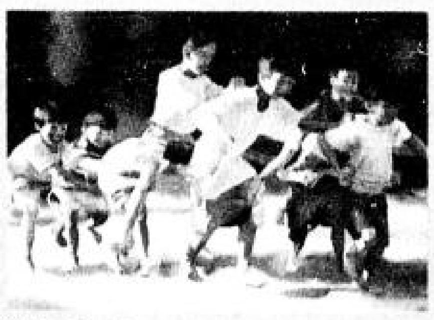
"Istar Player"
Oil on canvass, 24" x 36"
by Mark Ramsel N. Salvatus III
UST



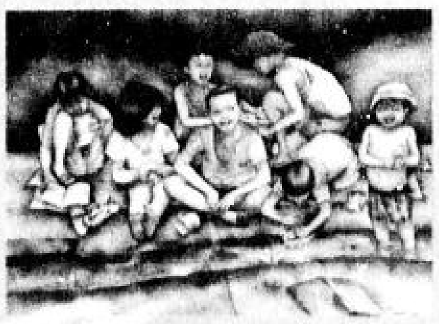
"Red Team"
Oil on canvass, 48" x 48"
by John Paul V. Antido
UP Diliman



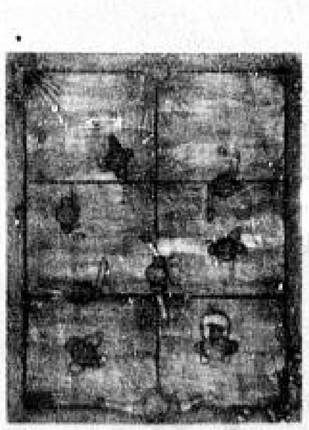
"Sungka"
Oil on canvass, 36" x 48"
by Roldan C. Ventura
UE Caloocan



"Ka-Bao"
Watercolor, 22" x 29"
by Robert Nelson V. Besana
PWU Manila



"Dahil Sa Ulan, Iba Naman"
Watercolor, 22" x 30"
by Clifford John R. Tolentino
Adamson University



"Patintero ng Kuya Ko"
Watercolor, 40" x 32"
by Maria Jeromia L. Pujeda
National University

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy to overcast skies with occassionall monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Overcast skies with rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 29° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Overcast skies with rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 26° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 26°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/25/01

ROUNDUP

DOTC manager ambushed

COTABATO CITY—The manager of the government's telephone expansion project here was ambushed about 6:30 p.m. on Thursday. Police identified the victim as Joel Siladan, 35, manager of the Telephone Expansion Project of the Department of Transportation and Communications who suffered three gunshot wounds in the neck and chest. Chief Insp. Saiben Akmad, police station chief, said the gunman, believed to be a gun-for-hire, also shot Siladan's driver Richard Dee, 28. Akmad said Siladan and Dee were on board a pick-up on their way home from the DOTC office on Datu Liwa Candao Street when the lone gunman opened fire. Siladan and Dee survived the ambush.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

31 dengue cases in Davao

MATI, Davao Oriental—Davao Oriental provincial health officer Dr. Crisuldo Malintad said rural health units and municipal hospitals recorded at least 31 cases of dengue in the province from January to July this year. Dr. Malintad said that although the figure is not yet alarming, they have intensified their dengue awareness campaign through radio programs.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Mindoro gov's allies win

CALAPAN CITY—Three allies of Oriental Mindoro Gov. Bartolome Marasigan won the presidency of their respective leagues in a move seen as a consolidation of his political clout. Naujan Vice Mayor Juvy Magsino was elected president of the Vice Mayors League of Oriental Mindoro. Magsino ran unopposed after her closest rival decided to withdraw. Marasigan's other ally, Bansud Mayor Ferdinand Thomas Soller, captured the presidency of the League of Municipalities after incumbent president Mayor Wilfredo Hernandez of Pinamalayan, an ally of former Gov. Rodolfo Valencia, withdrew from the race.

Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Barangay 'tanod' killed

CASIGURAN, Sorsogon—A barangay *tanod* chief was hacked to death in a drinking session inside the house of a barangay councilor on Sunday. Romeo Blanqueza, chief *tanod* of Barangay Escuala, Casiguran, was allegedly hacked by Lazaro Surbano, brothers Jaime and Salvador Macalinao and Reynaldo Diaz, all residents of the same place. The victim and suspects were drinking inside the house of barangay councilor Amador Masarate where the crime happened. The suspects fled after the incident. The victim was pronounced dead on arrival in the Sts. Peter and Paul Hospital.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA kills Cafgu man

PADRE GARCIA, Batangas—Five suspected New People's Army rebels shot dead a militiaman who was waiting for a ride along the highway in Barangay Cawongan, this town, police said. Felix Dimaculangan, 41, a member of the Civilian Auxiliary Forces Geographical Unit assigned to the 20th Special Forces based in Barangay Puting Kahoy, Rosario town was felled by .45 caliber bullets in the head and body. He died on the spot, said Supt. Rolando Lorenzo, Batangas police provincial director.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 men held for rape

BUSTOS, Bulacan—Police arrested three men suspected of raping their 22-year-old neighbor in front of her husband and year-old son in Barangay Malamig here. Arrested were Marlon Castro, 22, Romeo Iglesias and Eduardo Motos, both 19. Police said the suspects barged into the family's *nipa* hut while they were sleeping on Sunday afternoon. The suspects, who were armed with kitchen knives, tied and blindfolded the husband and raped the woman alternately, police said. They also stabbed and wounded the husband and their son.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Dead baby found

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Residents living near the municipal dump in Barangay Matimbo here found a day-old dead baby girl in a heap of garbage here Friday. They said the baby was placed in a box and stuffed into a garbage bag. Police said the baby's umbilical cord was freshly cut when found.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Pinatubo crater crumbling

CAPAS, Tarlac—Portions of the inner wall of Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake have been crumbling because of heavy rains and strong winds, officials of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said yesterday.

The rains have also hastened the rise of the water level at the volcano's crater-lake, officials said.

"There's very active landslide. The (erosion) scars are evident on the inner wall (of the crater)," Jaime Sincioco, Phivolcs resident volcanologist at Mt. Pinatubo, said.

The INQUIRER interviewed Sincioco on the O'Donnel notch of the 1,400-meter high summit before he and a Phivolcs team set out on Thursday to assess the condition of the crater-lake and the critical Maraunot notch.

The O'Donnel notch is 1.2 km northwest of Maraunot. The crater wall is made of breccia or fragmented pyroclastic materials that have stabilized after Mt. Pinatubo erupted in June 1991.

The crater wall is also made up of soft materials that are remnants of the 1991 eruptions wherein magma rose and blew off the summit.

On Thursday night, 96 Aetas who had set up camp at the O'Donnel notch to work full-blast on the crater's canal had heard booming sounds of soil crashing on the lake's water, Sincioco said.

He said the eroded soil pushes the water up because it occupies space in the 2.56-km wide crater. The water, measured 4.1 meters below the lowest rim last Aug. 18, has also hit a soft spot, he added.

However, there is no danger of breakout because the Phivolcs and the Department of Public Works and Highways have not yet detected seepage on Maraunot, where water may overflow or break out during severe weather.

Sincioco said at least 250 million cubic meters of water have accumulated in the crater-lake, rising at an average of 14 meters per year in the last 10 years.

He said the Phivolcs and the DPWH were "racing against time" to intentionally breach the crater-lake through a canal that is expected to drain 15 million cubic meters of water.

This volume is expected to mobilize only between 45 and 60 million cubic meters of lahar toward Botolan, Zambales. The threatened villages are Villar, Maguisguis, Moraza, Burgos, Poon Bato and Malomboy.

"The residents in these villages are instructed to move to higher, safer grounds," Sincioco said.

The DPWH has to rush the canal because the average increase in the water level per month is 1.24 meters, Sincioco said. During severe weather, water rises at an average of 2 meters a month. Bad weather conditions are usual in Zambales because it is near the South China Sea where typhoons, storms and tropical depressions exit.

In Angeles City, a Swiss engineer said for only about P3 million, the government would be able to solve permanently the inevitable catastrophic breaching of Mt. Pinatubo's lake walls.

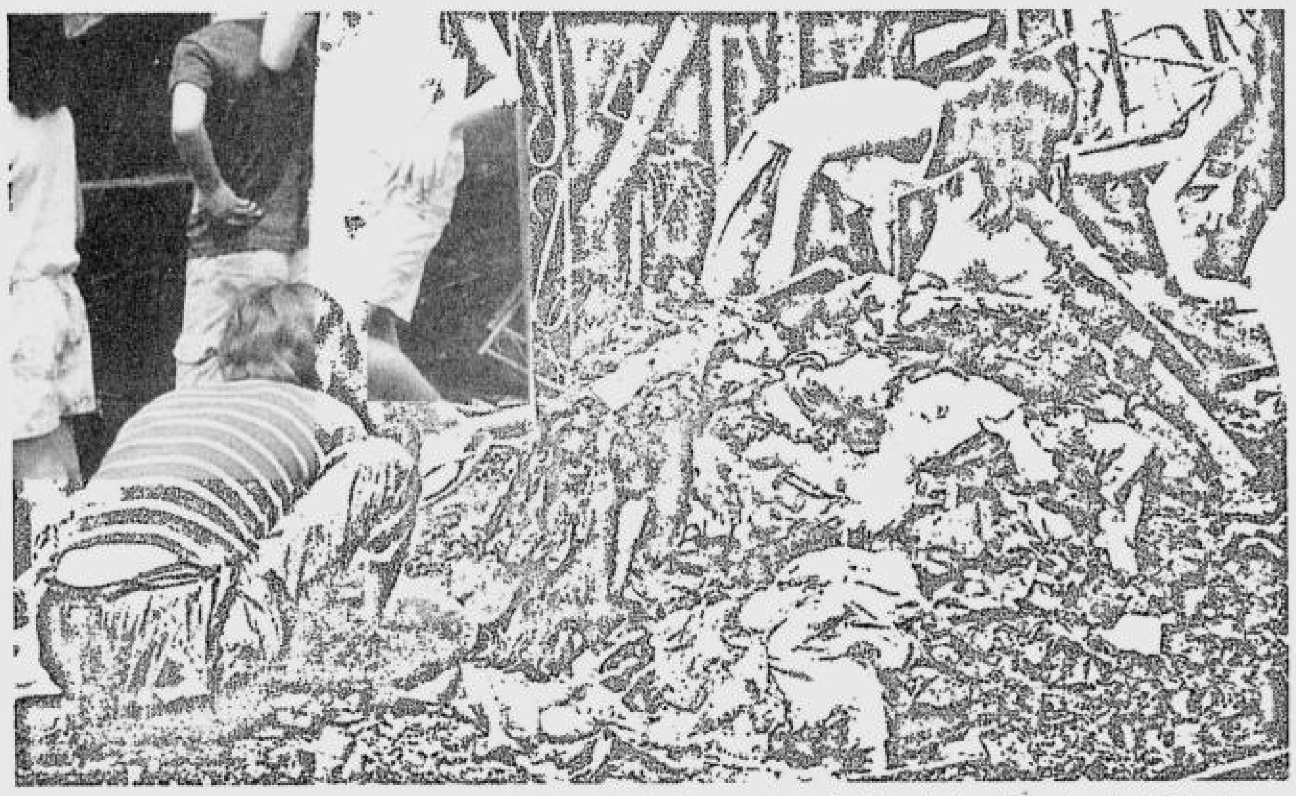
Rolf Bachmann, an engineer from Switzerland and married to a Filipina in Angeles, presented a draining system model that he claimed would regulate the water level of the Pinatubo lake.

On Aug. 20, Bachmann, along with some foreigners who operate hotels and resorts in Angeles City and in Zambales, wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo about the draining system.

Bachmann said Malacañang had immediately responded to his letter and claimed that the government "is very interested" in his proposal.

He said the ongoing canal construction is "very risky" for the Aetas.

"Even government geologists say that digging a channel in the crater is very dangerous because another four-meter rise in the water level would result in the collapse of the lake's wall. There will be no time to evacuate the people (Aetas) and they might be washed down," he cautioned.



THE GRIM task of searching for whatever is left of their homes starts for fire victims in a Bacolod City village.
ANDY ALVAREZ

2 hurt, 100 lose homes in fire

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Two persons were injured while 102 families were rendered homeless yesterday when a fire broke out in an urban poor area in this city.

Injured in the two-hour fire in Barangay 22 were firefighter Jonathan de la Cruz, 35, and Anthony Hortillosa, 37.

De la Cruz sprained his right ankle when he jumped from a ladder after flames suddenly moved toward him.

Hortillosa suffered serious burn injuries in the back when he went back to his burning house to save some of his belongings.

FO2 Harry Fernandez of the Bacolod Fire Station said the fire was believed to have been caused by faulty electrical wiring in the house of Hortillosa.

It took firemen two hours to control the fire, which had already destroyed 80 houses and damaged five others.

Fernandez said the fire quickly spread to nearby houses, which were made mostly of light materials. Fire trucks also had difficulty getting to the fire because the roads were narrow.

The residents complained that firefighters were unable to put out the fire immediately as they kept running out of water because of the lack of fire hydrants.

They also lamented that some heartless individuals stole the few belongings they managed to save from the fire.

Bill proposes 5-year ban on genetic food

By Dennis Maliwanag
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—"We are not a nation of guinea pigs. But the entry into the country of genetically engineered crops and food products . . . may just as well make us one," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. in his explanatory note to a bill he filed in Congress banning genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the country.

"We have yet to determine the risks and hazards of biotechnology to health and the environment," he added, "and until then it is incumbent upon government to impose measures that would safeguard our people's interests and welfare."

Pichay has re-filed House Bill No. 1376, that proposes a ban for at least five years on the entry, sale, processing and field release of products containing genetically modified organisms or that were produced through genetic engineering.

Violators, the bill proposes, will be fined from P100,000 to a maximum of P500,000, and imprisoned for one to five years.

Threats

"They say that so far, there's nothing to suggest that biotech food have any direct threat to health," said Pichay in his explanatory note.

"It is one thing if the experiment goes wrong only in the laboratory," he said. "But it is entirely different if it does inside our stomachs or in the environment (where) we live."

There is still no consensus among scientists and researchers worldwide on the issue of the safety of genetic engineering on health and the environment.

Advocates of modern biotechnology maintain it will boost production and reduce the use of chemicals.

Critics, however, have called for a thorough study first before the technology could be released into the environment and market shelves, citing studies that indicate hazards of the technology.

Deadly effects

American geneticist Doreen Stabinsky, who did a series of talks in the country on the issue of GMOs last year, warned that gene-altered food could cause severe allergy or even death.

"The European Union and the United States are now in a tussle over the safety of GM foods that it is not for us the developing countries like the Philippines to be the laboratories of biotechnology," Pichay said.

N. Vizcaya bishop's office robbed

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Burglars broke into the office of Nueva Vizcaya Bishop Ramon Villena here on Friday morning and took an undetermined number of office equipment.

Police said the burglars took various items from the bishop's office, including his laptop computer, video compact disc (VCD) player, the office's air-conditioning unit, an electronic typewriter and a manual typewriter.

Police could not give an estimate of the amount of valuables taken from the bishop's office.

The suspects entered the clergy house compound, where Villena's office is located, by cutting its wire fence. The compound in Barangay Luyang is along the national highway and is near a ricefield.

The three-story building serves as the residence of the bishop and other members of the Nueva Vizcaya clergy. It also serves as offices for the Diocese of Bayombong, which covers the Catholic parishes of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

Police said the suspects entered the bishop's office by removing four slats of a glass jalousie window. They reportedly exited through the office's back door.

The bishop's staff said Villena left for Europe early this month for a series of speaking engagements and visits to church benefactors. He is expected to return in September.

SSS premiums not remitted

DAVAO CITY—About 40 percent of establishments in Mindanao are not remitting to the Social Security System (SSS) the premiums of their employees.

Eddie Jara, SSS vice president for Southern Mindanao, said most of the "delinquent employers are those involving small and medium enterprises."

Jara said there are some 30,000 employers in Mindanao. But he said of the total number of delinquent employers, only 300 have been formally charged.

Jara said they could not just file cases against erring firms because most of them have longstanding relationships with the SSS.

The firms, he added, were unable to remit because they were having financial difficulties.

"(The) SSS has to exercise liberality, some employers have been partners of SSS for the past 20 years and SSS can't just prosecute them at once when they don't pay," he said.

But he said the filing of cases could not be avoided since they also have to protect the interests of their members.

Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

TACLOBAN PROTESTS

Workers turn up heat on 2 officials

TACLOBAN CITY—Close to 200 city employees staged a rally in front of the City Hall on Thursday night to demand anew the ouster of two city officials whom they blamed for the non-release of their clothing allowances and other benefits.

The employees, all belonging to the Government Association of Tacloban Employees (Gate), wore black T-shirts "to symbolize the death" of their rights to demand the release of the benefits due them.

Susan Cordaño, Gate acting president, said city administrator Feonillo Mantilla and Internal Audit Service Unit chief Ofelia Oliva should be ousted for refusing to release their benefits.

She said Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. should also respect the decision of the City Council, rejecting anew the appointment of Mantilla as city administrator.

During a special session on Thursday, the City Council denied Romualdez's motion for reconsideration of its earlier decision disapproving Mantilla's appointment on the ground that he is a resident of Cebu City.

Under the Local Government Code, the city administrator should be a resident of the local government unit where he intends to serve.

Romualdez, however, stood by his two beleaguered city officials.

"I know their agenda," Romualdez said referring to the Gate members and the city councilors. "They just wanted to destroy the credibility of my government."

The mayor maintained that Mantilla and Oliva still enjoy his trust and confidence. Despite the City Council's decision, he added, Mantilla will stay as city administrator.

Mantilla, for his part, said only Romualdez, not the Gate members, can demand his ouster.

"That is their (Gate members) right—to stage a protest against us. But we have also our rights to protect," he added.

The Gate's protests started on Monday when several city employees wore black T-shirts to work. Several councilors also wore black ribbons around their right arms in support of the employees' mass action.

The employees had been staging a noise barrage in front of City Hall from noon to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. since Wednesday until Friday.

The Gate members are blaming Mantilla and Oliva for the non-release of their uniform allowances and other benefits like the recent 5 percent salary increase and salary step increment.

They said the two city officials had no reason to withhold their benefits.

Early this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo had given local government units a go signal to implement the five-percent salary increase of government workers.

The City Council had already set aside P2.8 million in the city's 2001 budget for the clothing allowances of about 800 employees.

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Jalosjos buddy faces sexual harassment raps

DIPOLOG CITY—The president of a state college here, who prides himself as a very close friend of jailed Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, is facing suspension for sexual harassment.

Dr. Felipe Ligan, president of the Jose Rizal Memorial State College (JRMSC) in Dapitan City, is the first public school official of the province to be suspected for sexually abusing a subordinate.

Ligan is also facing corruption charges for the purchase of overpriced school forms and is currently out of jail on a P60,000 bail.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto approved Ligan's suspension on Aug. 10 under CSC memorandum circular No. 30, which detailed the types of acts considered as sexual harassment.

In her complaint before the Ombudsman Mindanao, the victim said she was reassigned to the JRMSC-Dipolog City campus after refusing to have sex with Ligan on Jan. 18, 2000.

She was in Ligan's office on that day to seek his signature on some documents when the school official suddenly shifted the topic and talked about sex.

He then allegedly told the victim that he was no longer satisfied with his wife and that she might be able to satisfy his sexual desires.

"Ligan wanted me to submit to him sexually and if I would agree, he would meet me in Dipolog City or he would pick me up in the school through his service vehicle," the victim said in her affidavit.

She said that afterwards, Ligan locked the door in his room and went on hugging her.

"He was panting when he said that I would be proud if I would have his child, because the father is the president of the state college," the victim said.

Sensing that Ligan was no longer listening to her plea, the victim said she played along.

She allegedly told Ligan that she would reconsider his offer and that her decision will be known the following day.

"It was only then that Ligan released me, so I went out of the room immediately," the complainant said.

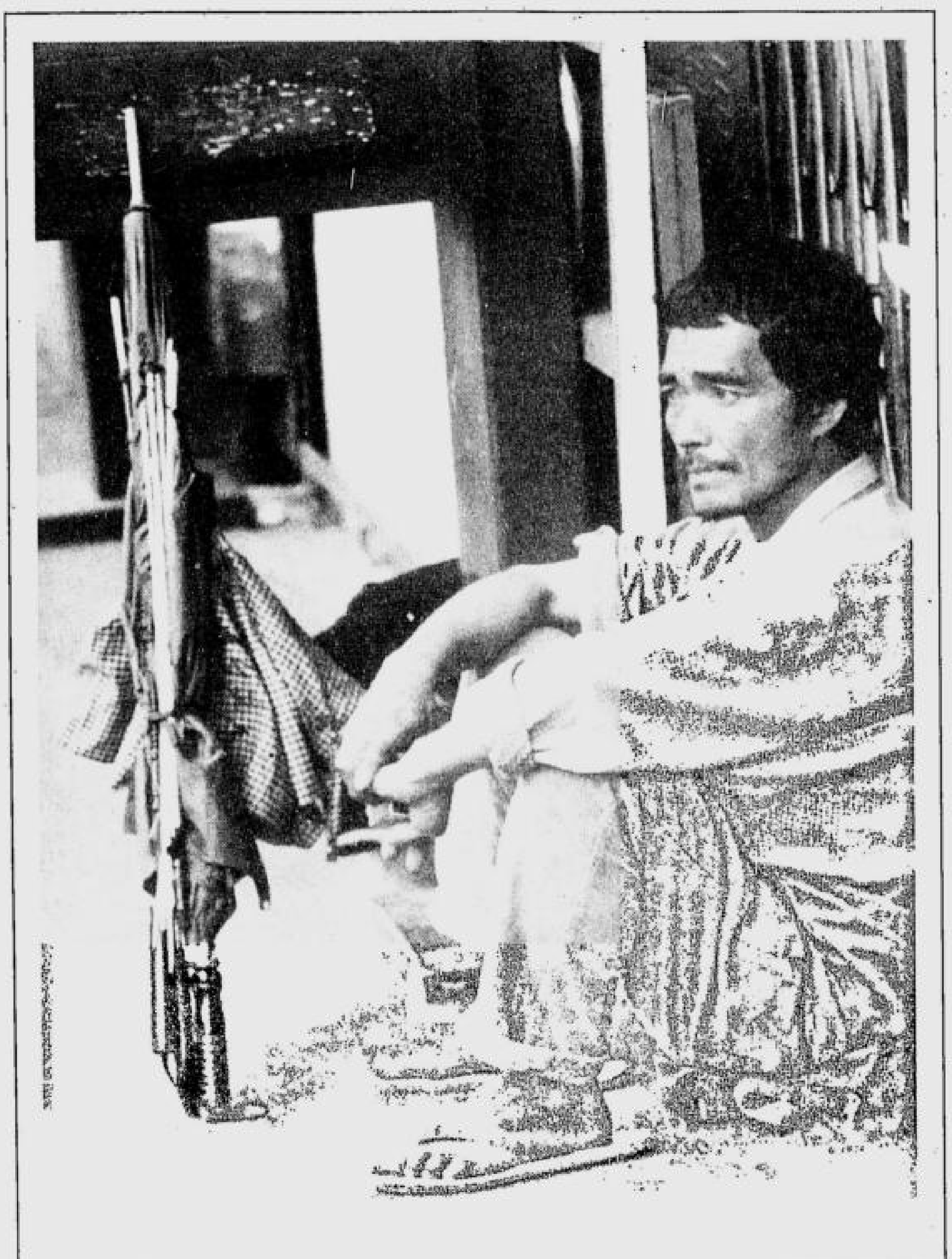
She said from then on, she had avoided Ligan.

After the school year ended, the victim said she was reassigned to the JRMSC-Dipolog campus, after she continued evading him all throughout the school days.

Ligan issued an affidavit denying the accusation. However, the Ombudsman said "the bare denial of the respondent cannot prevail (upon the) evidence (presented by) the complainant. As the Supreme Court enunciated that denials unsubstantiated by clear and convincing evidence are negative, self-serving evidence which deserves no weight in law . . . cannot be given great evidentiary weight over the testimony of credible witnesses who testify on affirmative matters."

Lullie Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Concrete jungle' caused floods



RAIN MAN

TOOTS SOBERANO

Rains have always been associated with sadness and despair, but it's the opposite for this umbrella repairman in Baguio City. When there's no rain, business is slow for the man as fewer people would need his services.

Answers evade Baguio on flooding last month

BAGUIO CITY—The city's "concrete jungle" triggered the unusual floods that buried downtown Baguio at the height of "Typhoon Feria" that killed at least 30 people here last July, city officials said.

Massive concreting of roads, the influx of high-rise buildings and construction of pedestrian overpasses had changed the behavior of run-off water that flowed through Baguio in the last 10 years, said Oscar Flores, city public utilities officer.

"The roads which were cemented have been acting as gutters, bringing water down faster toward the downtown area. In the last 10 years, more areas were concreted, more buildings were raised and rainwater that normally penetrates underground, that is absorbed by trees, by the leaves, by the earth, had no other course (to take) except these concrete roads. These are the real factors that caused Feria's flood," Flores told the INQUIRER.

'Superficial'

He said official pronouncements linking uncontrolled garbage disposal to the July 4 flood was a "superficial" rationale for the crisis that perplexed even President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ms Macapagal and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo both raised their concerns about the flood during their visits here in July.

The floods triggered by Feria reached as high as six feet and submerged vehicles in downtown Baguio, near Burnham Park and the city market.

Flores said a 1993 study by his office raised the possibility of floods hitting downtown Baguio due to the city's inadequate drainage system and heavy construction around the area.

Heavy water volume

The unusual volume of rainwater documented between 1993 and 2001 had worsened Baguio's vulnerability to floods, the study showed.

More rainwater had been routed through tributaries running down the city's hillsides, but many such waterways have since been obstructed by houses, Flores said.

These tributaries were natural regulators of run-off water that collects from rainfall.

The run-off water is collected by Burnham Lake, a manmade tourist attraction that acts as the city's "flood drain."

The reference is to the Burnham Park's topography, which is the lowest part in the downtown area where water naturally flows.

Baguio's urban planning was concentrated on the so-called "Baguio Meadow," according to a 1905 report to United States Secretary of War William Howard Taft.

Flores said the report by American architect Daniel Burnham and Pierce Anderson referred to the areas where flooding had struck.

The rains that Feria brought to Baguio brought to the city one of the worst flooding to ever hit the mountain resort.

Many expressed surprise over the flooding since Baguio is thousands of kilometers above sea level.

Earlier, city residents expressed the belief that the flooding could have been caused by clogged drains.

Some people also expressed suspicions that the flooding could have been caused by the denudation of Baguio's forests.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself categorically said denudation was one of the main culprits for flooding in Baguio City during a recent visit.

Some areas in the city became catch basins for rainwater at the height of heavy rains brought by Feria. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Alert raised as Bohol dengue deaths increase

BY CHITO FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Provincial Health Office has expressed alarm over the upsurge of dengue cases in Bohol with 282 cases, including two new fatalities, reported as of Aug. 11 in the province's 36 towns.

The latest fatalities were an infant and a boy from Calape town. They were nine-month-old Lou Andres Sabuero from Pangangan Island and Rolando Serrano Jr., 7, and a resident of Barangay Bentig.

Their deaths brought to three the total number of persons who died of dengue this year. The first to die of dengue was Jimmy Masayon, 33, a native of Corella town who died in January.

Dr. Francisco Razalo, Bohol provincial health officer, said Sabuero died at a private hospital in this city. The date of the baby's death was not specified in the health office report except that it happened between July 29 to Aug. 4.

Serrano, on the other hand, died of the disease at a government-owned hospital, also in Tagbilaran, between Aug. 5 to 11, Razalo said.

Razalo expressed alarm that the number of dengue cases in the province might continue to increase especially after his office had received reports of 61 new cases from Aug. 1 to 11 alone.

If the trend continues, he said the number of reported cases in August could overtake the health office's figures in July, which had the most number of reported dengue cases this year at 77.

The capital Tagbilaran City had the most number of dengue cases with 109 as of Aug. 11.

Razalo also noted an increase in the number of towns where dengue cases had been reported. In June, he said there were only 30 towns with dengue cases.

The number went up to 35 in July and then 36 as of Aug. 11. Only 11 towns in Bohol had remained dengue-free, Razalo said.

Razalo urged Boholanos to be more vigilant in their cleanliness campaign to rid surroundings of idle water considered the breeding ground for the *aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.

"Chemical treatment is good only while the chemical is potent. Just a week after fogging operations, the mosquitoes can again hatch their eggs and the potential for sickness is again real," he said.

Razalo said the most effective way is to eliminate the breeding places of these mosquitoes by regular cleaning activities.

"If there is a massive cleaning of suspected breeding places at least once a week, we will be able to check the *aedes* population and with it dengue incidence," he added.

In Dauis town, Razalo said Mayor Victor Bolos is finalizing a program that will prevent the spread of dengue.

The mayor, he said, planned to set aside one day a week for a barangay-based clean-up activity.

6 more crewmen rescued

LUCENA CITY—Six more crew members of an ill-fated light cargo wooden vessel that capsized on Monday evening near the Simara Island in seas off Marinduque were rescued by a search and rescue team late Tuesday afternoon.

A report of the Disaster Response Office of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Guillermo Nakar, this city, identified them as Moises Cain, 25; Geraldo Estolano, 31; Michael Granada, 44; Armando Tañedo, 44; Raymond Ibañez, 24; and Alejandro Manaloto, 46.

The report said three crewmen of the LCT Barangay are still missing.

Col. Danilo Fabian, Solcom spokesperson, however, said they are still closely coordinating with local and village officials along the coast of Marinduque for the immediate reporting of any more missing boat crew members.

"The search will definitely still continue until we find the three (more missing). That's the order of Solcom commanding officer Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya Jr.," Fabian told the INQUIRER.

Six crewmen were earlier recovered by a rescue team formed by Abaya.

Fabian said a certain Ric Salsalejo was also rescued Tuesday morning, bringing the total number of survivors to 13.

Still reported missing are boat skipper Capt. Rodelito Manguera and two other crew members of the light cargo vessel that was carrying Asia Brewery Corp. products and was bound for Ormoc City when it encountered strong and turbulent waves. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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3. Enclose the cap with "Win-A-Car" sticker along with the sheet of paper containing your personal information in a sealed envelope. Only one cap per envelope please.
4. Drop entries at designated drop boxes in selected groceries and supermarkets in GMA and Luzon. If there are no drop boxes located in your favorite supermarket, you may also send or mail in your entries to:

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* all entries from Visayas and Mindanao should be mailed to the above address.

5. The winners will be drawn on October 30, 2001. Deadline for submission and receipt of all mailed entries is on October 15, 2001.
6. A consumer may win only once in the raffle. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he/she wins the prize with the higher value.
7. Winners will be notified by phone and via registered mail by CPPI. They may claim their prizes on or after November 15, 2001.
8. When claiming prizes, winners will be required to present the registered mail sent by CPPI as well as any 2 of the following IDs: passport, driver's license, company/school ID.
9. All winners may claim their prizes within 60 days from end of the promo period. Unclaimed prizes after the prescribed period shall be forfeited in favor of CPPI with prior approval of BFAD.
10. Taxes for all prizes are to be shouldered by the winners. All prizes are non-transferable but convertible to cash.
11. Grand Prize of Honda Civic VTI is worth P717,000.00:
    1.6 Vti 5 – Speed Manual Transmission
    Color is subject to availability
    Includes standard free items
12. Second prize is a trip for two (inclusive only of airfare, accommodation, and travel tax) to Hongkong. This is non-transferable and convertible to cash. Equivalent cash value will be determined based on prevailing travel package rates at the time of the draw. All travel visa requirements are to be shouldered by the winner.
13. Third prize is a trip for two (inclusive only of airfare, accommodation, and travel tax) to Bangkok. This is non-transferable and convertible to cash. Equivalent cash value will be determined based on prevailing travel package rates at the time of the draw. All travel visa requirements are to be shouldered by the winner.
14. Trade outlets where top 3 winning entries were purchased (as specified in the personal information sheet of winning entries) will also win cash prizes as follows: Grand Prize – P200,000, 2nd Prize – P100,000, and 3rd Prize – P50,000).
15. Ten Consolation Prizes of P10,000 each will also be given away. Trade outlets where consolation prize entries were purchased will no longer have an equivalent cash prize.
16. All winning entries are subject to verification and security check in absolute discretion of CPPI.
17. Promotion is not open to employees of CPPI, its advertising and promotions agencies, its authorized distributors, and all participating supermarkets, including their owners and their relatives up to 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity.
18. The decision of CPPI with concurrence of BFAD is final.
19. Promo period is from July 15 to October 15, 2001.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit Number 0476, Series of 2001.

INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Palm tree project excites Boholanos

BY CHITO A. FUENTES
Tagbilaran City

BOHOL officials are excited, anticipating the economic opportunities that the entry of a palm tree plantation project worth P360 million will bring to their laid-back island-province.

Lately, the project gained wider acceptance among local officials after President Macapagal-Arroyo identified it as among the joint undertakings that the Philippines and Malaysia agreed upon during her first trip as head of state to the country's neighbor.

"The President's aggressive promotion of the project in Mindanao could lead to increased government support for the Bohol oil palm tree plantation, given the criticisms that she left out the Visayas in her first State-of-the-Nation Address," said a business leader, who declined to be identified.

This is welcome news, particularly in Bohol where the lack of opportunities has been blamed for the migration of inhabitants to other provinces and abroad.

Gov. Erico Aumentado acknowledged the problem in his speech during the recent Visayas Area Businessmen's Conference. He lamented the continuing migration of promising young graduates in search of job opportunities.

Recently, the Philippine Agriculture, Land Development and Mill Inc. (PALM) got the approval of the Board of Investments for a proposed palm oil mill in Bohol, the biggest agribusiness project in the province.

The endeavor is projected to benefit at least 1,000 farmers and will directly employ around 100 workers, according to Aster Ratilla, trade regional director.

Options

Ratilla said farmers and landowners who want to be involved in the agribusiness have three options: enter into a joint venture with PALM, lease out their land or sell their property to the company.

Under the first option, landowners will provide the land and plant the palm trees while PALM will provide technical, marketing and financial support.

The second option is for them to lease out their land for 25 years. They could extend the lease for another 25 years.

Under the third option, PALM will purchase and develop the land into a palm tree farm to support its mill. Caberte, however, said the company was not really keen on purchasing pieces of property.

"(PALM) would rather that the farmers retain ownership of their land," she said.

Caberte anticipates that the project will stimulate economic activities in Bohol, aside from encouraging development in the rural areas.

The identified plantation sites include the towns of San Miguel, Buenavista, Bien Unido, Dagohoy, Talibon, Trinidad, Ubay, Alicia and Sagbayan, and neighboring areas.

Most of the target areas are primarily idle land, which explains why the majority of the people living in these places are extremely poor.

The presence of communist rebels, who were apparently exploiting the farmers' miserable state, was noted lately in the towns.

Aside from providing employment to workers and benefits to farmers, the palm oil project is expected to generate jobs in the transport of fruit bunches, planting, weeding, harvesting, road construction, supply of fertilizers and chemicals and other agricultural services.

Caberte said the local economy, particularly the food sector, was expected to grow.

Ilonggos' 'Banana Avenue'

How a bad road tortures a city

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

ILONGGOS call bumpy and pot holed roads here "Banana Avenue," "Via Dolorosa" and "This-is-where-you-taxes-go-*kuno*."

Rain or shine, travelling on these roads is a torture, forcing a board member to deliver a privileged speech assailing the state of disrepair of these roads.

A group of jeepney drivers announced plans to stage a transport strike next week over the same complaint.

Iloilo board member Romulo Cabana said disparate portions of the road connecting Iloilo City to the adjacent towns of Pavia, San Miguel, Leon and Alimodian earned the moniker "Banana Avenue" after irate residents planted bananas in the potholes in the late 1980s, causing motorists to stay off the road and students to boycott their classes in support of the protest.

The roads were repaired after the protest but these have since deteriorated.

Now, residents are threatening to transform the muddied portions into "banana plantations" anew because the same stretch of road was pockmarked with holes only a mad driver would enjoy driving through.

"Commuting from Leon, Alimodian, San Miguel, Jibao-an and Mandurriao to Iloilo City, and back is physical torture," said Cabana in his privileged speech. "Living with the suffocating cycle of dust and mud in houses along the route has become intolerable."

The board member also authored a resolution addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong pleading to them for funds for the immediate repair of the roads.

Incidentally, Cabana did not bother to include 2nd district Rep. Augusto Syjuco in his appeal. "The resolution is addressed to the President not to anybody (else)," he explained.

Parody

In Iloilo City, residents along the one-kilometer Tabucan Road near the Mandurriao Airport hung streamers calling the government's attention to the sorry state of the road.

In a parody of a telephone company advertisement, a streamer read: "Hello, Congressman Gonzalez, *kung diin ka masaya suportahan ta ka*," a sneer on the lawmaker's slowness to implement his P7-million project to have the Tabucan Road repaired.

Vicente Tingson, in charge of the Iloilo City District Engineering Office, announced that repairs would start in November.

Meantime, he said, emergency repairs are under way and would be completed in three days. Public transportation vehicles are now being rerouted to take the load off the road.

Members of the Mandurriao Transport and Integrated Drivers Association led by Orlando Genilsa said they are giving the government one week to repair the road damaged by heavy rains and floods recently.

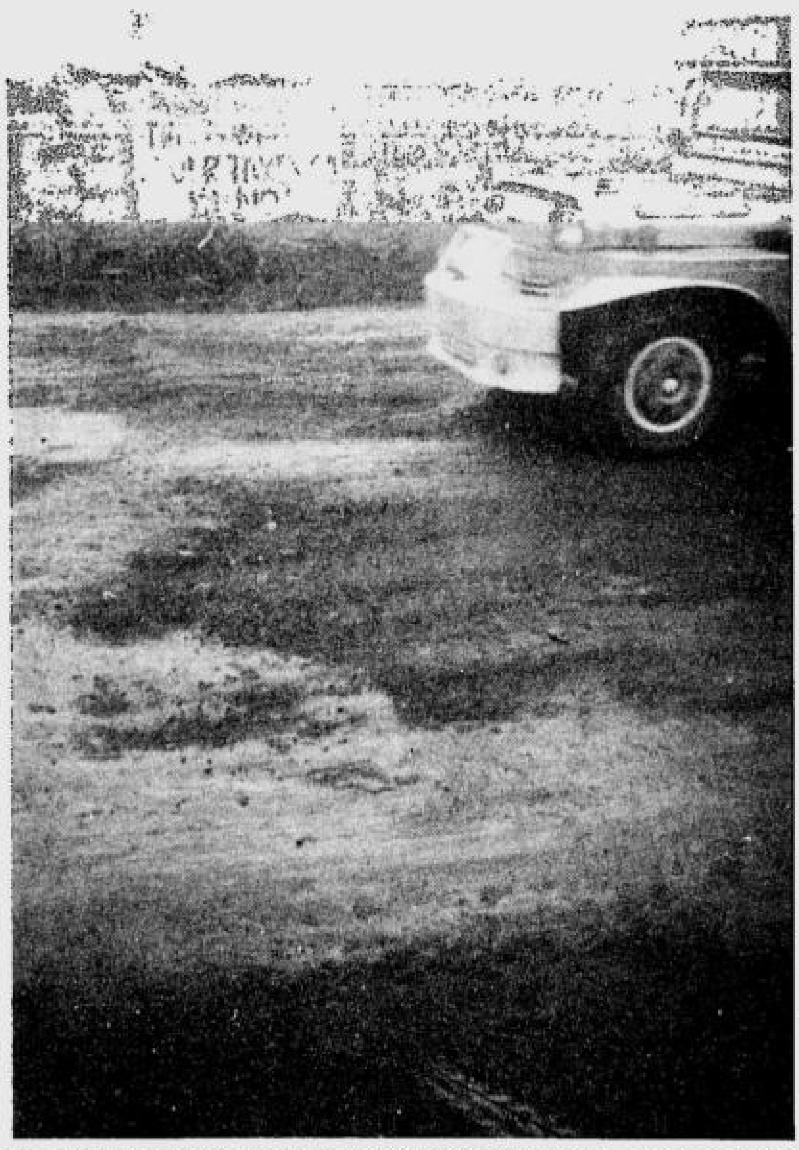
Or else, they said, they would stop plying the Mandurriao route until the Tabucan Road is repaired.

People power

The state of the road was dramatized by an incident last month, when a woman gave birth aboard a tricycle that was negotiating the bumpy road. A taxicab following the tricycle rushed the woman and her newborn to the Western Visayas Medical Center. It took the cab 10 minutes to negotiate the bumpy stretch.

Cabana said the protests against bad roads by residents here are "highly creative and spontaneous; urgent and serious but at the same time comic and witty; rebellious but also self-sacrificial."

"It also bordered on anarchy but it was people power at its best," Cabana added. "Let us not test the patience of our people. Let us wake up and heed their desperate call."



IS THIS a road or what? A portion of the Tabucan Road near the Mandurriao Airport.
PHOTO BY CHRIS FERNANDEZ

Dumaguete, 'homestay capital of the Philippines'

BY ALEX PAL
Dumaguete City

"I DON'T know what it is with Silliman University," exclaimed a baffled Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz, "but whenever Silliman celebrates Founders Day, everyone wants to come home!"

Over the last few weeks, alumni and guests have started arriving by car, bus, boat, or by plane—some by way of a chartered Philippine Airlines flight from Los Angeles—to this place they either still call home, or had called home at one time in their lives.

For hundreds of alumni, coming home to Silliman is a yearly pilgrimage—a time to take a breather from the hectic pace of life in Manila, Sydney, Honolulu, San Diego, New York, Florida, or wherever they have now settled in and practiced what they learned as students in Silliman's sprawling 60-hectare campus.

For some, this is a once-in-a-blue moon trip, having been away for as long as 50 years.

This year's celebration, however, is like no other. It is their Alma Mater's 100th birthday.

"There has been a great change since I was here 50 years ago," said Los Angeles-based Amparo Evangelista-Sauz, "I wouldn't have recognized the city if not for Silliman and Opena's (hotel and restaurant) where we used to eat *halo-halo*. While I could get lost downtown, people are still helpful and friendly as before. It's a wonderful feeling to be back. The days gone by are back again."

Because of the sudden—though expected—influx of visitors, anyone coming to Dumaguete City without a confirmed hotel reservation would be hard-pressed in finding a room. Some hotel rooms were booked for this occasion as early as two years ago.

A GROUP of balikbayans in the Amor home in Barangay Bantayan.
PHOTO BY ALEX PAL

The need for more hotel rooms has given money-making ideas for some businessmen who rented out available rooms at local hotels and made them available to *balikbayans* for more than double the price.

Open houses

For the luckier visitors, they found rooms in homes of friends or relatives. Many Dumagueteños found themselves hosting as many as four families, and a few more former classmates.

"My son had to build four apartments to accommodate 32 guests—mostly relatives—from Ontario, Boston, Washington DC, and Manila," said lawyer Alexander G. Amor, in whose front yard now flies a Canadian flag.

"It's nice hosting them because they are easy to please. They eat anything—fish, pork, chicken. For breakfast, we usually have *budbud* (steamed sweetened sticky rice wrapped in banana leaves), *puto* (rice muffin) and *tsokolate* (native cocoa drink) which we buy from the market."

Amor's neighbor, Dumaguete resident since the 1940s James Palmore, has also hung a banner welcoming members of the Aloha Chapter of the Silliman alumni in Honolulu.

"There are 16 of us staying here right now," said Paul Palmore, James' son, who is a teacher in Hawaii.

Unlike others who had to go through some home renovations to meet the demand for guest space, Paul said they are used to this setup and that they just had to pull out the mattresses and put them on the floor.

There are 20 Silliman alumni from Hawaii who have come for the centennial and all of them are staying in friends' homes, Palmore said.

"Dumaguete has cleaned up a bit since I was here five years ago. Then, the sewers along the streets were all open. Now, it's all covered, and that's a big difference."

Some hosts found the need to sacrifice their own rooms. Couple Teogenes and Nilda Magdamo, retired faculty members of the university, transferred to their daughter's home next door to give their room to their guests.

"We have 10 guests," said daughter Meda Magdamo-Palencia, "but we had prepared for more. We were ready with extra mats, blankets and pillows in case some guests had to sleep on the floor but other homes were only too willing to invite the others."

Meda said it's nice to see old friends and relatives from Mindanao, Manila and the United States gather for this centennial celebration, but said she finds it exhausting to play host.

Homestay capital?

Even this writer found himself lucky to experience the pleasant task of hosting.

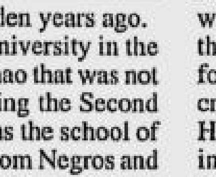
To make additional breathing space for 17 guests from New York, New Jersey, Manila, Kidapawan, Baliangao and Tudela in Misamis Occidental, I had to break down one wall of my house to extend the living room to the garage—a project, which still needs finishing touches even after the guests shall have all left.

With the guests gone by September and with all the empty rooms at hand, perhaps Dumagueteños could start another business and soon earn for Dumaguete the monicker as the "homestay capital of the Philippines."

Silliman University is 100 years old

(First of two parts)

LUCID INTERVALS



Rowena V. Guanzon

THERE is a place you never quite forget, a place of your youth, where you want to go back to from time to time, and reminisce the past. Years after you have left, you return to have a feel of the place, and discover that for you it has not changed—even the smell of the trees, the sea and the smile of its people.

Silliman University is such a place.

Founded in 1901 by American (Presbyterian) missionaries in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, it was named after Dr. Horace Silliman.

Silliman started as a vocational school for boys until it admitted girls and women in 1912, the first of the universities to do so. The oldest Sillimanian alive until March 2001 was William Kho, valedictorian of Class '29, whose classmate was John Gokongwei's father.

You can see the sun rise from Silliman Boulevard, and acacia trees are everywhere, many a century old. These trees hold many secrets of lovers who sat under them, and student activists who planned mass actions in their shade.

When I visit Silliman I always take time to look at the acacia and slowly walk around them, hoping perhaps that it would open its trunk and show me an old book or somebody's treasure hidden years ago.

It was the only university in the Visayas and Mindanao that was not badly damaged during the Second World War, so it was the school of choice of students from Negros and others from all over the country.

Having suffered traumatic experiences during the war and eager to start a future, young people were eager to go back to school. The university was far, for during that time the buses were slow, and some students from Negros rode trucks.

My mother, Elvira Villena (AA'48) had to take a bus, which had to be ferried by a raft made of drums to cross a river in La Libertad. They brought pillows with them for they had to spend the night in the bus while waiting for the low tide so the bus could cross. She stayed at the Oriental Hall. There were only five women in her class, among them RTC Judge Helia Mallare-Philipps and Atty. Mercedes Estampador Gomez, who was our Dean of Women and had to absorb all our rebellious energies. Dr. Arthur Carson, the president of Silliman before and during the war, went around campus in a bicycle.

Many couples met in Silliman, among them my parents Sixto (AB'50 Summa Cum Laude) and Elvira, Ike Sobrepena (President of College Education Plan) and Rose Lamb, Samson Gonzaga and Patria Obseque from Zamboanga, the first Miss Silliman. Dating then must have been an art form, for they didn't go out without chaperones, and visiting hours in the dormitories were limited.

Later, they would send their children to Silliman as a family tradition.

Me, I think I was sent there at 12 so I would learn to make my bed.

Before and after the war and even in the 70's only "tartanillas" or horse drawn carriages were the means of transportation in the university and the city. You were free from pollution but you could not escape the horse manure. Hardly no one was in a hurry, and if you were you might as well have run to your destination, for the horses were trained only to strut. (*To be continued*)

The writer graduated from Silliman Unviersity High School in 1974. For comments, please email at rbing95@hotmail.com

Ople, Oreta, Magsaysay want Ping probe halted

(From page A1)

The Samahan para sa Katotohanan at Kinabukasan (Katotohanan) even commended the senators for giving a "markedly different performance" during Thursday's hearing compared with the grilling they subjected witnesses during the first hearing on Aug. 17.

"We believe that the Thursday hearing showed that we could work together to arrive at the truth with regard to the many charges raised against Senator Lacson," Katotohanan convenor Fr. Carmelo Caluag II said in a statement.

Delicadeza

Katotohanan said Thursday's hearing "reinforced public knowledge of the scope and depth of . . . Lacson's criminal activities when he was still Philippine National Police chief."

The group urged Lacson to take a leave of absence out of *delicadeza*. It said Lacson's presence in the Senate would put "undue psychological pressure" on the other senators and keep them from "pursuing the inquiry with vigor and an open mind."

For Ople, the hearings had led the Senate into "an open-ended wild goose chase which seemed to lead nowhere, outside of providing a media spectacle, as though the Senate's main function was to serve as a catering establishment to provide entertainment to an avid audience."

Oreta, on the other hand, said she was not going to attend future hearings anymore because these have become "storytelling time."

Ople and Oreta, who are members of the Senate committees conducting the inquiry, underscored the need for the Senate to start working on other legislative matters.

The Senate committees on public order and illegal drugs, national defense and security and the blue ribbon are investigating claims of military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus that Lacson made millions out of drug trafficking and kidnapping and that he was laundering the money abroad.

Magsaysay said his committee needed to work on other matters like amending the National Defense Act and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) law.

He however said his committee members could overrule him on his wish for his committee to stop attending the hearings.

Spin-off committee

He also said it was possible for his committee to "spin off" a "subcommittee" that would take charge of the issue.

But Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the public order and illegal drugs committee, said the senators must allow Devnani to first testify and submit his sworn affidavit that would detail what he knew about Lacson's alleged illegal activities.

He said Corpus had introduced Devnani to the Senate as a new witness and "we have to take cognizance of that."

Barbers said he agreed with Sen. Rodolfo Biazon that the committees should be able to determine during next week's hearing whether or not the committees should push through with the inquiry.

Biazon said that if no new evidence could be provided, then the hearing should be terminated.

He said that during the executive session of the Senate committees the other day, the Senate was provided with the names of witnesses who could corroborate Corpus' claims against Lacson.

But he said what was not certain was whether these witnesses would be willing to testify before the Senate.

'Some keys'

"There are some keys but we're not sure if these keys can fit the right door," he said.

Meanwhile, an irritated Manila Mayor Lito Atienza compared his predecessor, Alfredo Lim, to a "parrot" following the latter's attempts during Thursday's Senate hearing to link him to suspected drug lord Kim Wong.

"He's like a parrot. He talks and talks without basis and he keeps saying the same things," Atienza said during his weekly news forum.

He said Lim's allegations were all hearsay because they were based on an interview with government witness Mary Ong, alias Rosebud, during a radio program.

The mayor said Lim was so busy tagging him as Wong's friend that Lim forgot to say that he, too, was once a friend of Wong.

Atienza said Lim only "lengthened and confused" the Senate proceedings.

Atienza called the Senate hearing a "political circus" and said he did not want to participate in it. He accused Lim of using the hearing to get back at him. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

CA lets Ping off the hook on Kuratong

(From page A1)

Guerrero dissented.

In its 23-page decision dated yesterday, the court's Special Third Division cited provisions of the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedures, which prescribe a two-year period for the reinvestigation or refiling of a case.

The rules apply for an offense punishable by imprisonment for more than six years. Under the rules, if a case that has been provisionally dismissed is not revived within two years, the dismissal becomes permanent.

The CA noted that the DOJ revived the cases only on April 19, 2001, two years after the QC RTC "provisionally" dismissed—a legal term for a dismissal based not on the merits of the case—the cases for lack of probable cause.

The trial court dismissed the cases on March 29, 1999 after star witnesses recanted their statements and fled the country.

"Applying the clear and categorical mandate of Section 8, Rule 117, such efforts to revive the criminal cases are now definitely barred by the two-year prescriptive period provided therein," the CA said.

It added: "In sum, the court is of the considered view that the subject dismissal of criminal cases was provisional in nature and that the cases presently sought to be prosecuted by the respondents are mere revival or reopening of the dismissed cases."

The CA also thumbed down the argument put up by government prosecutors that they could revive the cases as long as the accused were not arraigned prior to the termination of the cases.

Condemnation

Militant groups like Sanlakas lambasted the court's decision, claiming that it proved that "justice indeed can be bought."

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said the decision was untimely, coming amid military intelligence chief Victor Corpus' allegations that Lacson committed "so many other crimes."

"The ruling . . . is a big setback for the cause of truth and justice. Again, a legal technicality has been used to protect murderers in the government, military and police," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño.

"The Court of Appeals ruling sends a cold chill down the spines of Lacson's and his men's victims," he claimed.

Casiño said the decision sent a message that "Lacson and his criminal syndicates are so powerful they can kill with impunity in broad daylight and get away with it."

According to Bayan, it is now up to the Senate to ferret out the truth about the Kuratong Baleleng case and other crimes allegedly committed by the senator.

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza assailed the injunction as "the most glaring instance of justice being bought by the moneyed and powerful as Victor Corpus has alleged."

Legal saga

The CA decision stemmed from a petition for certiorari filed by Lacson's lawyers to nullify an order of Branch 40 of the Manila RTC on June 5. The Manila court had denied the petition for a TRO against the preliminary investigation then being conducted by the DOJ.

Lacson's lawyers had promised to submit a counter-affidavit to the DOJ. However, they surprised state prosecutors when they decided to instead seek the CA's intervention.

On June 26, 2001, the appellate court granted Lacson's petition, which barred Judge Yadao from issuing any warrant of arrest or holding any proceedings in the 11 criminal cases.

More than two years before the DOJ reopened its investigation, Lacson was charged as principal in the 11 informations filed by the Office of the Ombudsman, which was then prosecuting the cases, in the Sandiganbayan.

The informations, docketed as Criminal Cases Nos. 23047 to 23057, implicated Lacson in the alleged summary execution of 11 suspected members of the dreaded Kuratong Baleleng Gang. The gang was implicated in a series of bank robberies and armored-car hold-ups.

The Sandiganbayan, however, upon a motion from Lacson, ordered the Ombudsman to reinvestigate the cases.

On March 1, 1996, the Ombudsman downgraded the charges against Lacson, making him a "mere accessory," according to records submitted to the CA.

Reopening case

In March 1996, Lacson questioned the jurisdiction of the anti-graft court in a legal fight that eventually reached the Supreme Court.

On Jan. 20, 1999, the SC directed the transfer of the cases to the Quezon City RTC.

The biggest blow to the Ombudsman came from principal witness, SPO2 Eduardo Delos Reyes, who, in an affidavit of retraction, declared that the alleged summary executions was a legitimate shootout between policemen and known criminals.

The court was forced to dismiss the cases "provisionally."

The DOJ decided to reopen the cases early this year when two new witnesses surfaced, claiming to have knowledge of the alleged murders.

On March 6, 2001, the DOJ filed new informations against Lacson and several others. The cases again fell into the hands of Judge Yadao, who had previously dismissed the cases.

To stop the court from hearing the new cases, Lacson filed a petition for a TRO with a Manila court, which denied the petition. Unperturbed, Lacson sought the CA's intervention. *With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

SC: Only Pagcor can run jai alai

(From page A1)

Quisumbing, Arturo Buena, Consuelo Ynarez-Santiago, Sabino de Leon Jr. and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Justices Reynato Puno, Artemio Panganiban, Bernardo Pardo and Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes dissented.

The new ruling deviated from the tribunal's decision of Nov. 29, 2000, which led to the total shutdown of jai alai operations in the country.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, one of the petitioners, said: "It is a sad day for many anti-gambling advocates, and we now leave it to the good judgment of President Macapagal-Arroyo in line with her moral crusade against the proliferation of gambling.

"It is now in the President's hands whether she will allow jai alai to continue or not, Pagcor being under the Office of the President.

"May I just remind the President that jai alai is the root of the illegal small numbers game called 'masiao' in the Visayas and Mindanao, which continues to corrupt several officials of government in these areas."

On the issue of whether Pagcor can operate, maintain or manage jai alai games in association with Belle and Filgame, only seven members of the tribunal voted in the affirmative.

The eight who were opposed said Pagcor either had no franchise to operate the games or it could do so provided it did not enter into a partnership with other gaming firms.

In its earlier ruling, the high court banned Pagcor and its private partners—Belle and Filgame—from operating the games, saying the three entities had no legislative franchise to do so.

However, Vitug said in a separate opinion that Pagcor's franchise allowed it to operate jai alai, among other sports and gaming pools.

Mendoza supported Vitug's position.

PD 1869

The ruling was based on Pagcor's charter, Presidential Decree 1869, which, the tribunal said, did not provide for a franchise from Congress for the operation of jai alai.

The tribunal agreed with the arguments of the then petitioners—Representatives Zubiri, Raoul del Mar (Cebu), Federico Sandoval II (Malabon), and Michael Defensor (Quezon City)—that Pagcor and the two gaming firms had usurped Congress' authority to grant franchises.

"From its creation in 1977 and until 1999, Pagcor never alleged that it has a franchise to operate jai alai. Twenty-two years is a long stretch of silence. It is inexplicable why it never claimed its alleged franchise for so long a time, which could have allowed it to earn billions of pesos as additional income," the high court said.

It said the decrees issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos with regard to jai alai were revoked when President Corazon Aquino took over in 1986.

In May 1987, Aquino issued Executive Order 169, which revoked the jai alai franchise "which was then controlled by the Romualdezes in Manila," the tribunal said.

The tribunal also said Pagcor's franchise only authorized it to "operate gambling casinos and not jai alai."

It added that PD 1869 did not have the standard marks of a law granting a franchise to operate jai alai, contrary to PD 810 or EO 135.

The Nov. 29, 2000 decision was affirmed by the high court in a decision last June 20.

Voting 8-7, it dismissed the motion for reconsideration filed by Pagcor, Belle and Filgame.

But Pagcor filed a motion for clarification, citing Vitug's separate opinion as solid basis to favor its plea to continue operating jai alai. *With a report from Volt Contreras*

Devnani tried to arrange Atong Ang's surrender

(From page A1)

tor Corpus' surprise witness at the Senate hearing investigating the military intelligence chief's claim that Sen. Panfilo Lacson is engaged in criminal activities.

Presenting himself as a member of Estrada's inner circle, Devnani linked Estrada and son Jinggoy, Lacson and Ang to big-time crime including kidnapping for ransom and drug trafficking.

In Cebu City, Elsa Tuadles-Gorre, younger sister of the late basketball star Arnulfo "Arnie" Tuadles, confirmed that her brother and Devnani were close friends.

She said she also knew that her brother was a close friend of the Estradas and Ang.

Tuadles was killed in 1996 at the Club 419 (since renamed International Business Club) supposedly owned by Estrada. Businessman Ambet Antonio was convicted of the killing, but Devnani said in his testimony that Tuadles was killed because "he was working for Ang and he knew all their criminal activities."

Gorre said the Estradas came with Tuadles to Cebu before her brother's death. She also said Devnani visited the family home on Tuadles' birthday.

Devnani had said that as a habitue of Club 419, he listened to Ang and Kuratong Baleleng leader Renato Parohinog talk about kidnapping operations of which, he said, Lacson was the "brains."

But Lacson denied knowing Devnani in an interview over radio dyLA.

He said he was at Club 419 not more than twice, when then Vice President Estrada chaired the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC).

Lacson said he would meet Estrada at Club 419 late at night or at dawn after a PACC operation because the latter wanted to be briefed on the results.

He said he went to Estrada's "watering hole" only when told to.

At a news briefing, Lacson dismissed Devnani's claims as "pure fabrication" and "a pack of lies."

He said Estrada's claim that Devnani was close to Berroya "shows the quality of (Devnani's) statements."

He challenged Devnani to present proof of his alleged crimes and file charges in court instead of playing out the case before the Senate.

"It has turned into a theater of the absurd. Anybody can just come in and spin a tale and destroy reputations with no evidence to back it up," he said.

No-show

Berroya, now police director for Central Luzon, acknowledged that he had known Devnani since 1992 as a member of Estrada's inner circle.

He said he was "surprised" to learn that Devnani testified before the Senate the other day.

Berroya said Devnani called him supposedly on Ang's request shortly after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became President.

"Devnani asked me if he could give my contact number to Ang, who, he said wanted to testify against Erap in the plunder case," Berroya said.

He said Ang subsequently contacted him and expressed readiness to testify against Estrada on the condition that the government would lift the cancellation of his passport.

According to Berroya, he told Ang that he would try to see what he could do. They agreed to meet in Hong Kong as Ang had said he was just in China.

"In February, I, along with Perez, went to Hong Kong to meet Ang. We got stood up. When he called me, Ang was already in the United States," Berroya said.

Berroya also said Devnani called him upon learning that Ang was considering cooperating with the Macapagal administration.

Devnani said he, too, would want to "spill the beans" on the alleged criminal activities of Estrada and Lacson.

Berroya quoted Devnani as saying that Estrada and Lacson were "worse than the Mafia in how they operate."

"But I became busy and he did not call again," Berroya said. "I suppose it was because he learned that the talks with Ang did not push through."

Berroya said that like former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson—whose "Juetengate" signaled the beginning of the end of the Estrada administration—Devnani could see the then President "directly, without having to pass through a strict security cordon."

He said he doubted "very much" the Estradas' claim that Devnani had borrowed a big amount of money from them. "Erap and Jinggoy are so greedy they just want to amass money," he said.

Berroya said it was also "impossible" for Lacson not to know Devnani.

"That is tantamount to saying that Lacson is not among those in Mr. Estrada's inner circle, and that's a big lie," he said.

New witnesses

Devnani's lawyer, Leonard de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement (E-Just), said the prospect of new witnesses coming forward could be why opposition senators were seeking the termination of the Senate hearing.

"What they're afraid of is there will be more witnesses that will be emboldened to come out," De Vera said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

He predicted that the Devnani testimony would go the way of Singson's testimony in Estrada's impeachment trial.

"The Chavit case took a life of its own after more people came out in response to acts of courage by a few," De Vera said.

Singson himself said he knew Devnani's claims against the Estradas, Ang and Lacson to be true because Estrada and Lacson had told him about their alleged illegal activities.

He said he did not know Devnani personally but had heard the name before.

In a separate phone interview, Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), said they were talking with possible witnesses who could corroborate Devnani's claims.

It was to the VACC that Devnani went when he decided to make public what he knew about his former friends.

"There will be (other) witnesses," Jimenez said, adding that these would include "live victims" of kidnapping allegedly carried out by the Kuratong Baleleng and top officials of the then Lacson-led Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Jimenez said Tuadles' relatives would also speak out on what they knew about the alleged crimes carried out by Lacson's group.

He noted that there had been misperceptions on Devnani's remarks about Tuadles.

"What he was really saying was that Arnie never dirtied his hands with crime. Why would the Tuadles family help us if Arnie was part of it?" Jimenez said.

(Editor's note: In the reprinted version of Devnani's statement on Page A7 of the Aug. 24 issue of the INQUIRER, Tuadles' name was mistakenly marked No. 10 in Devnani's list of "evil people." In the original statement, the reference to Tuadles was not numbered.)

Anger

Tuadles' mother Emeteria does not want Devnani and the Senate to include her son in the ongoing investigation of Lacson's alleged crimes.

"I am angry that my son is being dragged into this investigation. Arno is already dead. He is with our Creator. I don't want the past to be revived," Emeteria, 75, said in Cebuano.

She said she had difficulty sleeping Thursday night after hearing Devnani's remarks on television about her son.

She expressed the belief that Estrada and Lacson had nothing to do with her son's death.

Emeteria pointed out that a security guard saw Ambet Antonio shooting her son inside Club 419 on Nov. 2, 1996, during an argument, and that Antonio was now serving his sentence.

Danao City Councilor Conrado Batoon, Tuadles' uncle, also refuses to have his nephew's case revived.

"Please do not involve my nephew. He is already dead," he told the INQUIRER.

Batoon said he suspected something fishy in Devnani's testimony. But he confirmed that Devnani and Ang knew each other, and said the two men attended Tuadles' burial in Cebu.

Tuadles' mother and uncle said Estrada had been spending for the education of the late athlete's three children since 1996. But the financial support was cut off last year, they said.

In Manila, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said he did not know Devnani.

"He was sprung from nowhere but apparently he knows a lot," Golez told reporters.

Golez said he hoped that Devnani would substantiate his claims and submit a sworn statement, as he promised the senators.

However, Golez said Corpus and the Senate should focus on the purported secret bank accounts held by Lacson and wife Alice in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong.

"To me, that is the more decisive element in this inquiry because if there is an account, it speaks for itself," he said.

Golez told the INQUIRER on Thursday that just one confirmed bank account would be "fatal" to Lacson. *With a report from Juliet L. Javellana*

419: 'Evil' men's club gone forever

(From page A1)

President Joseph Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, used to plot various illegal activities.

Today, only the fourth floor of the Wilson Building is occupied, housing the Acacia Restaurant and Sing-Along Bar, reportedly owned by Estrada's brother, Jessie Ejercito.

But the new bar is a far cry from the exclusive Club 419, which was renamed the IBC Membership Club three months before it made news as the scene of the fatal shooting of former basketball star Arnie Tuadles in November 1996.

"This is basically a sing-along bar, so we have gay stand-up comedians and other entertainers on certain days of the week," said Maan Villacorta, manager of The Acacia.

She said that few people had heard about the bar since it opened in May. She also claimed that she was not familiar with the history of the place.

In the eyes of the owner of an adjacent *sari-sari* store, the building is still a place reserved for the rich and famous. "I only got to enter that building when the construction was just starting, but never again," she said.

Devnani, a "surprise" witness of military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, claimed that Club 419 was really owned by Estrada.

The businessman said he stepped forth as the owner in 1995 because the then Vice President feared that reports of "illegal activities" on club premises would affect his bid for the presidency.

On Thursday, Estrada denied owning the club, though he admitted frequenting it. He said the incorporators of the club leased the site in 1996 from Poe's wife, actress Susan Roces. He also said the original incorporators included Eli Gardiner, former head of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Estrada also admitted that his friends chose to name the club 419 in reference to his birthday, April 19.

The name of the club was changed to IBC Membership Club in August 1996, in the wake of negative reports arising from the club's identification with Estrada.

Quiz show's weakest link is quizmaster

(From page A1)

British quiz show The Weakest Link.

Student Gary Chan had reached the final round of the show Wednesday night, when he was asked in which year East and West Germany unified.

He correctly answered 1990 but show presenter Dodo Cheng Yueling said the year was 1989—when the Berlin Wall came down.

The error gave Chan's opponent, Jack Soe, the chance to answer questions that resulted in him winning $178,000.

Chan was told by station TVB of their mistake Thursday after a viewer complained to a newspaper. The station decided to pay him the 178,000 Hong Kong dollars, which he lost out on and allowed Soe to keep his prize.

The pay-out is the latest in a series of controversies to hit the program, which is at the center of a ratings war with rival station ATV, which has been airing a Who Wants To Be A Millionaire quiz show at the same time on Monday nights.

On Wednesday, it emerged that TVB was investigating claims that four contestants had plotted to oust opponents so that they could split their cash prize.

The quiz is run on a winner-take-all format for eight players in which one contestant—the weakest link—is voted out of the competition by the others after each round of questions.

Its huge success in Britain has spawned versions in countries around the world. AFP

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SMB 'SLAM' BID GONE

Red Bull pockets PBA title

BY JUNE NAVARRO

BATANG Red Bull outsteadied San Miguel Beer in the homestretch to capture its first PBA title with a gut-wrenching 75-69 victory last night before an ecstatic crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Thunder, who won the best-of-seven series 4-2, watched their opponents self-destruct during the fading moments as the Beermen failed to convert a basket in the final four-minute mark.

Antonio Lang and the rest of the Thunder capitalized on the Beermen's frigid stand the rest of the way to award coach Yeng Guiao his third title since 1993.

Guiao also joined the likes of basketball maestro Baby Dalupan, Tommy Manotoc and Ed Ocampo as the tenth coach to tuck at least three titles under their belts.

"There's no feeling like winning a championship. It's extra special because we beat a great team with a winning tradition," said Guiao, who also became the fourth coach to win three titles under two squads.

Things actually weren't looking good for the Thunder at the start of the final period. While the Beermen hit their strides, the Thunder groped for form, allowing the defending champions to control the momentum as the match approached the final minutes.

But the Thunder employed a defensive crackdown in the last four minutes to break loose from a roller-coaster battle. Actually, San Miguel had a sputtering start, falling behind by as much as 17 in the second quarter, 35-18 as the Thunder seized the initiative right from the opening buzzer.

From a 70-69 lead, the Thunder drew two points apiece from Davonn Harp and Ato Agustin before Antonio Lang's free throw iced Red Bull's title-clinching victory. Junthy Valenzuela starred for Red Bull in the endgame when he blocked Danny Seigle's three-pointer and then saved a sideline loose ball to preserve the victory, in the process deflecting San Miguel Beer's Grand Slam bid.

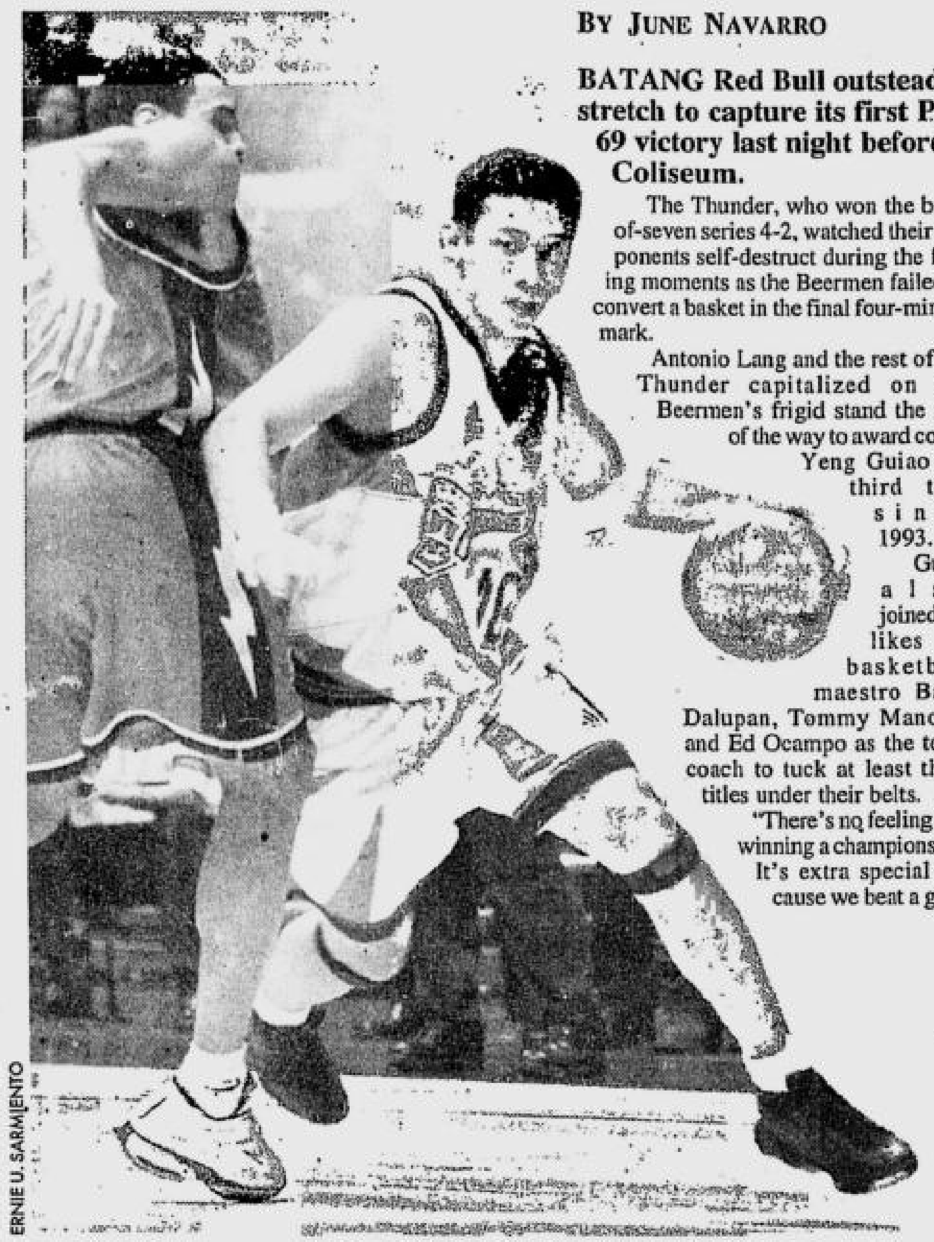
Seigle, summoning his championship spirit, orchestrated a comeback, igniting a 23-9 blast midway in the second to keep the Beermen within striking distance.

Scores

RED BULL 75—Lang 26, Pennisi 13, Tugade 12, Harp 8, Agustin 5, Mendoza 4, Torion 2, Valenzuela 2, Raymundo 2, Miller 1.

SAN MIGUEL 69—Seigle 22, Ildefonso 14, Racela 13, Lago 9, Johnson 7, Belasco 2, Peña 2, Victoria 0, Abuda 0.

Quarters: 27-18; 44-41; 53-54; 75-69.


ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

ILDEFONSO (right) of SMB trying to elude Red Bull's Lang in their Game 6 last night. Red Bull won, 75-69, to bag the PBA Commissioner's Cup.

Kilda defends HK Adidas title

ST. KILDA of Cagayan de Oro will defend the Asian championship of the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2001 this weekend in Hong Kong.

The lasses from Xavier University advanced to the Asian finals by upsetting last year's titleholder Team Galaxy of NCB two weeks ago in the national championship.

St. Kilda will be joined by another Mindanao squad, Team Chromium of Ateneo de Davao, in the Hong Kong title series Aug. 25-26, with at least eight countries competing.

"It will be a tough battle, but I think we have chances if we stay alert," said Kilda star Catrina Pong, the sparkplug and crowd favorite in the national finals.

This was echoed by Adidas sales and marketing director Sonny Nebres. "This is a very tough series but if they can make use of their chances, then the girls' squad might pull it off."

Pong, along with teammates Marilyn Grace So, Rhea Joyce Mae Nacalaban and Ma. Remedios Lolita Chaves, arrived Thursday night along with Team Chromium.

Pong, who will be 19 this November, almost failed to compete in the original date of the national finals since this coincides with her sister's wedding. But when organizers held the event a week ahead of schedule, St. Kilda got the break they needed.

The Ateneo de Davao crew is led by their captain, Harry Hipolito, Alexander Lu, Allan Medina and Chester Chavez.

Chromium leaned on their teamwork to trounce topseeded Icam Artillery of Baguio in the finals.

RP 5 trips Honduras, 90-85

BIBOY Simon hit all of his four points in the final minute Thursday as the Philippines-FedEx team pulled off a pulsating come-from-behind 90-85 victory over Honduras to assure itself of the battle for third place in the 24th William Jones Cup in Taipei. Simon's triple with 59 seconds left sparked a 7-0 windup that reversed an 83-85 deficit en route to the Filipinos' fourth win in six games.

Andok's San Juan MBA champ anew

BY ROY LUARCA

ANDOK'S San Juan played catch-up most of the time but finished well ahead at the finish line.

The Knights poured everything they got in the fourth quarter to dump the Negros Slashers, 103-90, last night and clinch the MBA First Phase crown at the packed San Juan Gym.

Chito Victolero, showing why he's considered the league's best point guard, took control of the game with his all-around savvy down the stretch as the Knights broke the backs of the Slashers and cut short the best-of-five series, 3-1.

The Knights trailed by as many as 13 points in the second half, but patiently worked their way up in the third quarter behind the efforts of Gilbert Castillo and Chris Calaguio, 75-73.

Then Victolero took over.

Duplicating his heroics in Games 2 and 3, which San Juan also won, Victolero pumped in eight points and, more important, served as the take-charge guy for the national titlist Knights.

The Slashers were still ahead, 80-77, when a steal by Victolero netted a Blitz Three and an accompanying freethrow by Rafi Reavis. That paved the way for a 12-0 point run by San Juan.

The scores:

ANDOK'S 103—Calaguio 33, Castillo 18, Reavis 13, Rodriguez 11, Dacla 8, Ferreria 6, Capobres 5, Aying 0, Banares 0.

NEGROS 90—Dela Rosa 13, White 12, Tierra 11, Aldeguer 10, Madrid 10, Cardel 10, Ferriols 8, Hugnatan 7, Ignacio 5, Bal-og 2, Benedicto 2, Huelar 0.

Quarters: 25-29, 51-57, 73-75, 103-90.

Pacific Youth baseball on

FIVE teams from four countries start their quest for the prestigious title when the first Pan-Pacific Youth baseball championships get going today at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority baseball grounds in Subic, Olongapo, Zambales.

Pampanga Vice Governor and Presidential Son Mikey Arroyo will represent President Arroyo in the opening ceremonies kicking off the four-day tournament participated in by teams from Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines, which is fielding two squads.

Pagunsan wins by 12 strokes

BY JONG ARCANO

THREE days before he leaves for the big mission in Kuala Lumpur, Juvic Pagunsan got himself something he badly needs for the arsenal: a winning feeling.

Pagunsan hardly blinked in a superb finish of four-under-par 68 yesterday, rampaging home to a 12-stroke victory in the 2nd Canlubang Amateur Open golf championship.

The 23-year-old SEA Games spearhead turned an already imposing seven-stroke cushion he built for three rounds into a double-digit margin when he birdied four of the first eight holes.

Solomon Gines claimed second place with a closing 73 for 289 while erstwhile defending champion Marlon Dizon checked in third with his second 71 in four days for 290.

Highlighted by a record-matching 64 in the second round, Pagunsan completed his mastery of the course and the field with a 277 total, an impressive 11 under at Canlubang South.

The four-day brilliance mirrored the readiness of the reed-thin son of touring pro Juanito to go for gold in the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur next month.

Pagunsan leaves with his national teammates on Monday for KL to prepare early for what is expected to be a big showdown with Thailand.

Architects listing deadline Sept. 30

ARCHITECTS have until Sept. 30 to register for the 10th Annual Architects' Golf Classic slated Nov. 9 at the all-weather Robert Trent Jones layout of Sta. Elena. This was announced yesterday by AGC president Jimmy Biglang-Awa.

Excitement for the game has mounted with a hole-in-one feat achieved last year by Eugene Villanueva.

Expected to figure for the crown are past winners Alan Cruz, Sonny Esguerra, Jimmy Aizon, Nepthy Del Rosario, Ricky Solatorio, cousins Francis and Ed Romualdez, Simeon Tan, Gene Go, Rudy Zapanta, Andy Vasquez, Cord Guanco and Marty Ilagan.

For registration guidelines and tournament details, call 882-0296, 882-0294 and 882-3835.

Main sponsor of the tournament is Boysen Paints. Other sponsors are Delta Faucet Co., Otis Elevator, Puyat Vinyl Products, Urban Hardware, Asean Timber Corp., Citimotors, Expert Interior Products, Futura Décor Products, House of Precast, Julan Pest Control Systems, Milwaukee Builders Center, Object Builder for Asia Development, Republic-Asahi Glass Corp., American Standard, Construction Navigator, Emerald Vinyl Corp., Ergonomic Systems Phils., Firec, Jardine Davies, James Hardie Phils., Joecor Builders, Josol Home Décor Improvement Center, Magnum Suria Signs and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

Sta. Elena captures Luzvimin

CEBU—Sta. Elena streaked to a runaway victory in the diamond division while Navy and Apo came from behind to snatch the titles in the lower divisions at the close yesterday of the Philippine Airlines-sponsored Luzvimin Golf Invitational tournament at the Cebu Country Club course here.

Carina Ricamonte completed her steady showing with another 48-point effort as Sta. Elena aggregated 175 for the day and prevailed by 22 points over a Josie Untal-led Aguinaldo.

Untal, emerging as the overall individual champion, fired a one-under 71 equivalent to 55 points to lead a last-round charge by Aguinaldo. But despite their 179, the Agui bets finished far behind Sta. Elena's 520 total with their 498. Other scorers for Sta. Elena were Venie Godio (45), Tami Leung (41) and Therese Dabao (41).

Las Piñas to stage charity stagfest Monday

THE FIRST derby of the 2001 stagfighting season blasts off at Las Piñas Cockpit on Monday, Aug. 27, via the "Annual LPC 5-Stag Derby." At stake is P500,000, plus three refrigerators to the champions, while entry fee is P11,000. Backed up by Pagcor-Casino Filipino, the derby's proceeds will be donated to several community projects of Mayor Nene Aguilar, like Clean and Green campaign, livelihood program and barangay feeding programs. The elimination round (2-stag) on Monday will start promptly at 6 p.m., said pit manager Alex Tobias. The finals (3-stag) is on Wednesday. Call 873-1040 for other details.

UAAP Today
(Loyola Gym)

9:30 a.m.—Adamson vs NU (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UST vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—Adamson vs NU (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UST vs Ateneo (Srs)

SPORTSWATCH

Anton, Gutierrez seek victories

ZED Gulf Oil MP Turbo Racing Team ace drivers Carlos Anton and Monching Gutierrez, the frontrunners in the points race of the SVI Petron Blaze Production and SVI Challenge Cup series, seek title-clinching victories at the resumption of the 2001 SVI Saloon Racing Championships this weekend. Rounds 11 and 12 are scheduled at the SVI Speedway at the SBMA Freeport in Subic.

Norman shares lead; Woods 1 down

AKRON, Ohio—Greg Norman made a bogey on the final hole but still posted a 5-under-par 65 Thursday to share the lead with Jim Furyk after the first round of the NEC Invitational. Tugging at his pants to mock the fact he has dropped nine pounds over the past eight days _ from the heat at the PGA Championship in Atlanta and food poisoning earlier this week _ Tiger Woods strung together three birdies and was one of four players at 66. Norman's last PGA Tour victory came four years ago at the Firestone Country Club course. It was the first time he has been in the lead after one round of a PGA Tour event since the 1997 Kemper Open, a stretch of 43 tournaments. *AP*

RLB derby screening tomorrow

THE LAST day of screening for "RLB Annual 7-Stag Derby" will be tomorrow, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mandaluyong Coliseum. The derby set for Aug. 28 and Aug. 30 is sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo. Derby host Richard Bates will be on hand to personally supervise the screening and wingbanding of stags. Participants are also reminded that submission of weights (1.7 kg) to 2.2 kg) is on Monday, Aug. 27, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. only. For inquiries, please call 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341. "Since this is the first big-time stag derby of the 2001 starfighting season, we expect a full-house crowd on Tuesday," coliseum manager Nandy Yu said. Entry fee is P25,000 and minimum bet is P11,000.

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Canlas cops 2 titles

BAGUIO—Ayo Canlas, a Grade 6 student of Ateneo, routed Rodel Navarro, 8-1, then outlasted Paul Papa, 6-0, 6-3, to barge into the Finals recently of the 12-under division in Baguio City.

Canlas next overcame Paul Papa, 8-1, then outlasted Dorotheo Nazi, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, to barge into the Finals of the 14-under class in the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001.

Canlas' teammate, Daniel Luis Macalino, whipped Jettah Valdez, 8-0, before beating Gerber Mamawal, 6-3, 6-3, to gain the championship match with Ayo Canlas in the 14-under division.

Canlas eventually won the 12-under division before he was declared co-champion in the 14-under division with Macalino.

The Adidas netfest was organized by CTW and supported by Milo and SportsKids.

10 YEARS AGO

THE PHILIPPINES beat Malaysia, 126-77, to advance to the quarterfinals opposite China in the ABC basketball championship in Kobe, Japan. The RP team avenged its loss to Malaysia in the 1989 SEA Games.

Western teams still up

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

JUDGING by the off-season player moves so far, Western Conference teams will continue to dominate the NBA in the upcoming 2001-02 wars.

Out West is where the top championship contenders reside. Unless another LQ (leadership quarrel) erupts between Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant (or Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal to others), look for the two-time reigning NBA champion LA Lakers to be the early favorite to repeat and to score a rare "three-peat."

The Lakers may have lost starting power forward Horace Grant backup center Greg Foster and substitute playmaker Tyron Lue (who did an outstanding defensive job on Philly spitfire and NBA MVP Allen Ivrson during the 2001 NBA Finals) to free agency, but the departure of those interchangeable role players has been offset by the addition of two-guard Mitch Richmond (a Washington discard), ex-San Antonio Spur Samaki Walker and two-way, backcourter Lindsey Hunter, who was acquired from Milwaukee in the trade for Foster.

So long as Shaq and Kobe are healthy and on the same page, the Lakers appear unbeatable.

The biggest threat to LA's title-retention bid is still San Antonio. Even though the Spurs parted ways with Walker and guards Derek Anderson, Avery Johnson and Steve Kerr, they were able to sign center David Robinson to a two-year renewal, thereby guaranteeing frontline stability built around the Twin Towers combination of All-NBA forward Tim Duncan and the "Admiral" for the next two seasons.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. The King 2. Make Sure 3. Suterian Era 4. Imperial Passion
Race 2—1. Maximo 2. Silver Flyer 3. Roman Dance 4. Vice on Ice 5. Enjoy D View
Race 3—1. Magic Fingers 2. Zenie's Pride 3. Modulo Queen 4. Angelovich
Race 4—1. Speed Charm 2. Pen Tristram 3. Doctor Steve 4. King Size 5. Best Gift 6. Flashy & Bold
Race 5—1. Happy Return 2. Strong Alphonse 3. Al's Princess 4. Dancing Kiara
Race 6—1. Alabang Girl/El Magnifico 2. Carlo's Charm 3. Witch Craft 4. Osang 5. You and Me
Race 7—1. Materiales Fuertes 2. Midnight Rose 3. Hacker
Race 8—1. Prince Armstrong 2. Denon 3. Be Ready 4. Ceasar's Inn 5. Champs Elysees 6. Tiger Tin Tin
Race 9—1. Andee's Joy 2. Eagle Song 3. Diligence 4. Recticano
Race 10—1. War General 2. Breakaway Artist 3. Silver Lining 4. Piker's Glory 5. Big Kahuna
Race 11—1. Speed Goddess 2. Bound To Be 3. D Raven 4. Aim & Fire 5. Sitsiritsit
Race 12—1. Kentucky News 2. So Generous 3. Ladies' Night 4. Gold Marlin 5. Adrenalin
Race 13—1. Sham Sham 2. Sunrise 3. Noble Principality 4. Lady Witty 5. Scholar's Tem 6. Real Dancer

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Peace chessfest resumes today

THE ELEVENTH and last qualifying leg of the 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express gets underway today at 1 p.m. at LandBank's Multi-Purpose Hall along Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City. PEACE 2001 is being sponsored by DNS Co. and organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems Inc., LandBank, Tabilog Cargo Services, Topmost Engineering, Travel Café and National Sports Grill.

HK bet advances; PSC support

WANG Chen of Hong Kong defeated Hu Ting of China in a three-set thriller yesterday, 11-9, 4-11, 11-3, to advance into the semifinal round of the ladies singles in the JVC Asian Badminton Championships at the Philsports Arena.

The pony-tailed Wang raced to a 9-1 lead en route to victory to set her up against China's Dong Fang in the series that saw the Philippine Sports Commission reiterate its full support behind the international event.

The PSC noted that the tournament is one of the few international events hosted by the country "with very minimal expense to the commission or the government."

PSC Chair Butch Tuason said the PSC will actively support "events to bring in more big-scaled, foreign-flavored competitions."

Commissioner Weena Lim said that since Asians have made their mark in the sport, there is hope for the Filipinos to do the same.

"Given the needed boost, badminton is one of the many sports we can excel in. Almost all badminton Olympians and world champs are from Asian countries," Lim said.

Lim, who made history as the first Filipino badminton player to see action in the Olympics (1996 Atlanta), credits the leadership of PBA president Ming Ramos and vice president Gen. Edgardo Aglipay for revving up the badminton scene.

PSC Commissioners Richie Garcia and Cynthia Carrion, also an avid badminton player, said that the Asian tourney is a much-needed revitalizer for Philippine badminton.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: Ford Senior PGA Players Championships, Second Round at 1 p.m. (r – 10:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

U.S. Amateur Open Golf Championship Third Round at 4:30 p.m., Fourth Round tomorrow at 3 a.m. on ESPN

BASKETBALL: 2001 WNBA Conference Finals Game 1 at 7 a.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on ESPN

Asian Basketball Show at 11 a.m. on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 5:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

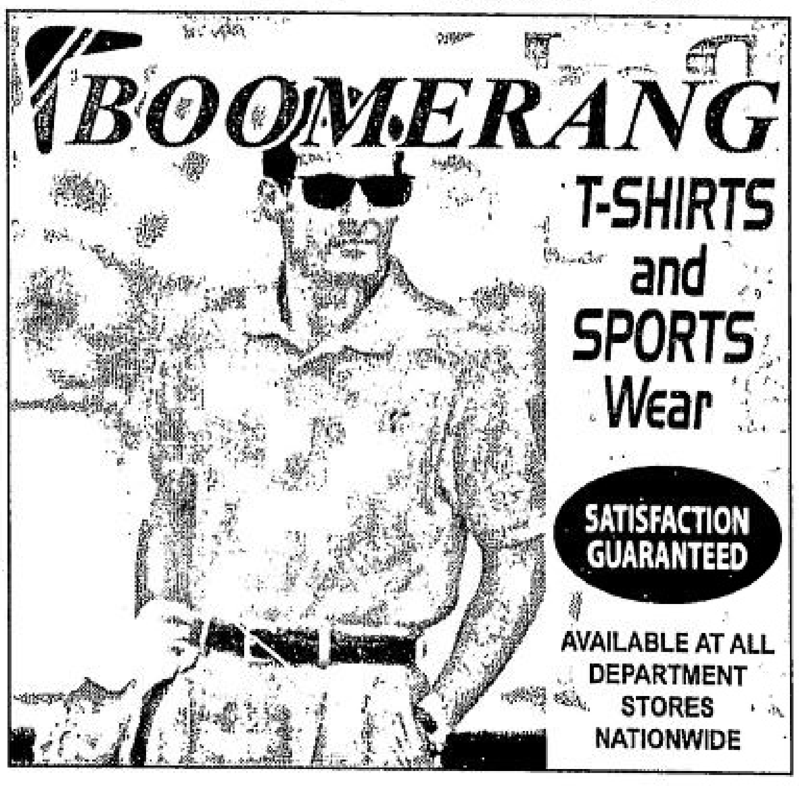
TENNIS: ATP Legg Mason Classic Finals at 9:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

ATP Hamlet Cup Quarterfinals at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

BOWLING: 2001 Mini-Eliminator at 9 a.m. (r) on ESPN

CGU Asian Bowling Tour - Semifinals and Finals at 10 a.m. (r) on ESPN

SOCCER: Futbol Mundial at 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports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PAGCOR AID

Chair Efraim C. Genuino (right) of Pagcor handing a replica of the P30-million check to PSC Chair Butch Tuason as aid for the RP Team's SEA Games campaign in Kuala Lumpur.

Del Rosario tops Petron Enduro plum

SUBIC—Two-time national champion Paul del Rosario scored a come-from-behind victory yesterday to capture the 2001 Petron Offshore Enduro Ironman crown at the Waterfront beach here.

Del Rosario almost gave up hopes of winning the one-hour Offshore Enduro race as 1998 champion John Dee took the holeshot and led most of the way in this event sponsored by Petron Corp., WG&A Super Ferry and SBMA.

But the big twist came after the two passed their final lap. Dee's engined conked out, paving the way for Del Rosario's big win.

Del Rosario also topped the Expert 1200 class over Nilo Santiago. Dee wound up third while Carlo Baltao ended fourth.

Dennis Ong, the last leg's Ironman, checked in second to rule the Novice 1200 division over runner-up Allan Young, Wilfredo So and Perry Yao.

Newcomer Coy Felizardo prevailed in the Novice 785 class while Ben Sun Que copped the Veterans crown.

OOPS! The second paragraph of yesterday's "Clean Living" column should have read: "But the celebration was spoiled somewhat on Game 5 last Wednesday night when Ildefonso and Lang played below par, becoming profound disappointment to their followers and raising the question: Are they deserving of the PBA awards?"

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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CHATTERBOX WEST 41 WEST AVE. QUEZON CITY	ALLAN K FIRST CIRCLE	AUG. 30, FREESTYLE SEPT. 1, PATRICIA J.
Cowboy GRILL BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy GRILL 1190 ARQUIZA ST., MABINI	J BROTHERS MR. ROXY/HIMIG	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy GRILL 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	HOMOSAPIENS STAY TUNED	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy GRILL NOVALICHES Q.C.	KOOL JACKS MIX-UP/FREEZE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant	RICO J. PUNO ANNA FEGI	P350 W/ 1DRINK ☎373.3333
KAMPO 2080 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	GLADYS & D' BOXERS D' BOSS/HEAT OF D' NIGHT	P 250 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	BLAKDYAK VANNA VANNA	ASBI & JULIE P 200 CONS/373.7183
MUSIC WAREHOUSE	ANDREW E TOYZ/SLIDE	SLAPSHOCK AUG.28 735.1405/735.1280
MINDAVE MINDANAO AVE. COR. CONG'L, Q.C.	FREESTYLE! AUG. 27 FREE BACARDI/BUDWEISER!	NUDE PAINTING XHIBIT 453.0080/925.3117
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	GROOVE VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎890.4735
Tropical FOREST	M POWER	PICA-PICA PLATTER P230/MON-FRI
OTHER PLACES		
Cowboy GRILL BIÑAN, LAGUNA	STREETLIFE KNIGHTS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ (049) 511.7268
Partyline SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	M-CODE SUGAR & JAM	ALLAN K D' SEX BOMB DANCERS SEPT. 1
THE VENUE DAVAO JACINTO EXT. DAVAO	JEREMIAH OPUS	GENEVA C./L. LAPUS SEPT.1/ (082)224 4150

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 912-8983

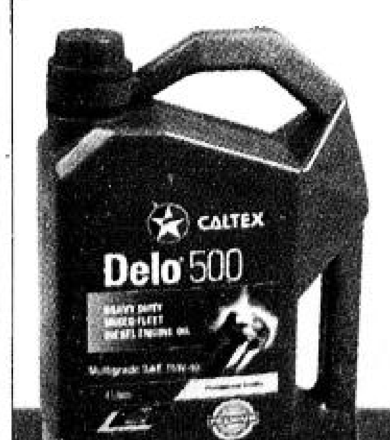
What Drives You

Tiwala.

Importante na tumibay ang tiwala ng mga customers ko sa akin. Kaya naman laging da best lang ang nire-recommend ko. Pagdating sa diesel engine oil, bilib ako sa DELO. 'Di nagpuputik ang makina kaya mas malakas ang hatak at matagal ang pagpalit ng langis. Sa DELO, siguradong hindi ako mapapahiya.

Jun Salvador

Jun Salvador
Experienced Mechanic



What Drives You CALTEX

THE POWER TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU CHOOSE.

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The biggest text-based quiz game is now even bigger! Join SMART zed

Text to Milli,000,000ns! PART 2

Quiz Game

How would you like to get a text like this?

Congratulations!
You've just won
₱2,000,000.00!

3 Questions. 3 Answers. Millions in cash prizes at stake.

And now, not only SMART GSM, but also Talk 'N Text subscribers can participate.

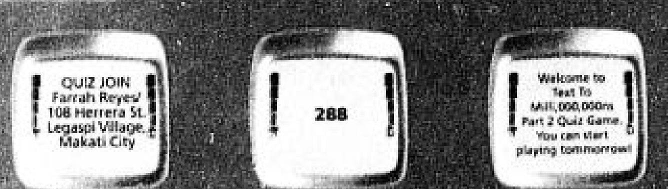
Just text the correct answer to three questions and get a chance to win ₱2,000,000.00 in the grand draw. You can also win ₱50,000.00, ₱75,000.00 and ₱100,000.00 in the weekly draws plus ₱125,000.00 and ₱200,000.00 in the monthly draws. So hurry! Join SMART zed Text to Milli,000,000ns Part 2 Quiz Game for a chance to win ₱2,000,000.00. Promo runs from August 20, 2001 to November 11, 2001.

PROMO MECHANICS

WHAT IS THE PROMO ABOUT

Text to Milli,000,000ns Part 2 Quiz Game is a nationwide text-based quiz game for all SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, and Talk 'N Text subscribers in SMART-covered areas. Promo period will be from August 20, 2001 to November 11, 2001.

HOW TO JOIN



Key in **QUIZ**space**JOIN**space<**name**>/<**address**>

Send to **288**

You will then receive this message

The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry identification (ID). There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the game. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.

TO RECEIVE THE DAILY QUIZ QUESTIONS

The participant simply registers and s/he will automatically receive the first question the following day. Questions will be sent to all registered participants everyday between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This is free of charge.

In case a participant wishes to start playing even before s/he receives the first question or doesn't receive the question right away, s/he can pull the question by keying in **Q** *and sending it to* **288**. *This is free of charge.*

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Key in **QUIZ***space***<question number>***space***<answer>**
Example: **QUIZ 1 A** and send to **288**.

If the participant's answer is correct, s/he receives a message of confirmation. Example: "Your answer was correct! Please wait for the next question." The next question will follow after the confirmation has been sent.

If the participant's answer is incorrect, s/he receives a message informing him/her that the answer given was incorrect. Example: "The correct answer is <letter>. Please wait for the next question." The next question will follow after the confirmation has been sent.

The participant will be charged ₱2.50 for each answer s/he sends to 288. The participant shall not be charged for questions received.

It is important that participants strictly observe proper keying in of keywords and spaces in order to avoid syntax error.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES

3 correct answers = 3 points = 1 raffle entry

In order to qualify for the day's raffle, the participant should answer all three (3) questions correctly before 12 midnight on the same day the questions were received. A maximum of one (1) raffle entry can be made in one day. *In the event that the participant fails to complete all three (3) correct answers for the day, his/her points will be carried over to the next day or until s/he completes three (3) correct answers within that same week. Participants may accumulate as many raffle entries as they can for the period of the week.*

TO VIEW RAFFLE ENTRIES

Key in **QUIZ ENTRY** and send to **288**. The processing of points and raffle entries earned by each participant is done every 12 midnight, at the end of each day. The participant should check his/her standing before answering the first question for the day. *Rate for Quiz Entry is ₱2.50.*

TO QUIT

(In cases when a participant wishes to register his/her cellular phone number under a different name or opts to quit the game)

The participant keys in **QUIZ QUIT** and sends it to **288**. To register the number under a different name, the participant should just repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the weekly, monthly and grand draw under the new registered name. *Rate for Quiz Quit is ₱2.50.*

TO VIEW GAME RULES

Key in **QUIZ RULES** and send to **288**. *Rate for Quiz Rules is ₱2.50* regardless of how many reply messages the participant receives.

TO GET KEYWORDS FOR THE GAME

Key in **HELP QUIZ** and send to **288**.

For more information, SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers may call to make inquiries through *888 free of charge. Metro Manila subscribers may also inquire through SMART Customer Hotline number 888-1111 for free. For provincial subscribers they may call the local SMART Wireless Centers for free. Local SMART Wireless Centers' telephone numbers are indicated in local flyers. They may also consult SMART's Customer Care Hotline through 888-1111 at regular NDD rates.

See flyers for complete mechanics.

Promo period, draw dates and prizes are as follows:

WEEK	Period Covered	Draw Dates (MON)	Prizes
Week 1	August 20- August 26	August 27, 2001	₱50,000.00
Week 2	August 20- September 2	September 3, 2001	₱50,000.00
Week 3	August 20 - September 9	September 10, 2001	₱50,000.00
First Monthly Draw	August 20 - September 16	September 17, 2001	₱125,000.00
Week 4	August 20 - September 23	September 24, 2001	₱75,000.00
Week 5	August 20 - September 30	October 1, 2001	₱75,000.00
Week 6	August 20 - October 7	October 8, 2001	₱75,000.00
Second Monthly Draw	August 20 - October 14	October 15, 2001	₱200,000.00
Week 7	August 20 - October 21	October 22, 2001	₱100,000.00
Week 8	August 20 - October 28	October 29, 2001	₱100,000.00
Week 9	August 20 - November 4	November 5, 2001	₱100,000.00
Grand Draw	August 20 - November 11	November 12, 2001	₱2,000,000.00

SMART
Simply Amazing!

THIS PROMO IS AVAILABLE TO SUBSCRIBERS OF

SMART GOLD GSM · SMART Buddy pre-paid · TALK 'N TEXT

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1279, Series of 2001

Where 950 kilos of shabu went A18

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Wanted: 1,700 new policemen A21

Manor owner's wife, 7 others charged

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

POLICE yesterday charged eight more people, including the wife of the owner of Manor Hotel, in connection with the fire that struck the Quezon City hotel on Aug. 18 where 74 people were killed and 51 were injured.

Charges of reckless endangerment resulting in multiple deaths and injuries have been filed against all the top officials of the Manor Hotel led by the hotel president Rebecca Genato, said Quezon City prosecutor Alfredo Agcaoili.

William Genato, the hotel owner and Rebecca's husband, had been charged for the same crime on Tuesday.

The charge carries a maximum term of six years in prison with fines and compensation.

The couple denied they have gone into hiding, but the Genatos yesterday failed to show up at the preliminary investigation of their criminal complaint in Agcaoili's office.

Lawyers Benito Ambrosio and Wenceslao Orpiano represented the Genatos in yesterday's proceedings.

"You have to understand that they are still depressed," Ambrosio said when asked why their clients' were absent. "They felt disturbed because of the incident."

Rebecca also denied she was culpable, saying her hotel was prepared for fires.

Agcaoili has until the middle of next month to conduct a preliminary investigation and decide whether to request arrest warrants for the people charged or dismiss the case.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte said police also plan to charge at least six government officials next week on accusations relating to negligence in fire and safety inspections.

Nine city officials, including the fire marshal, have already been fired.

MANOR/A18

Buy from Marikina sidewalk vendors and get fined ₱300

BY AGNES E. DONATO

WHEN in Marikina City, patronize sidewalk vendors at your own risk.

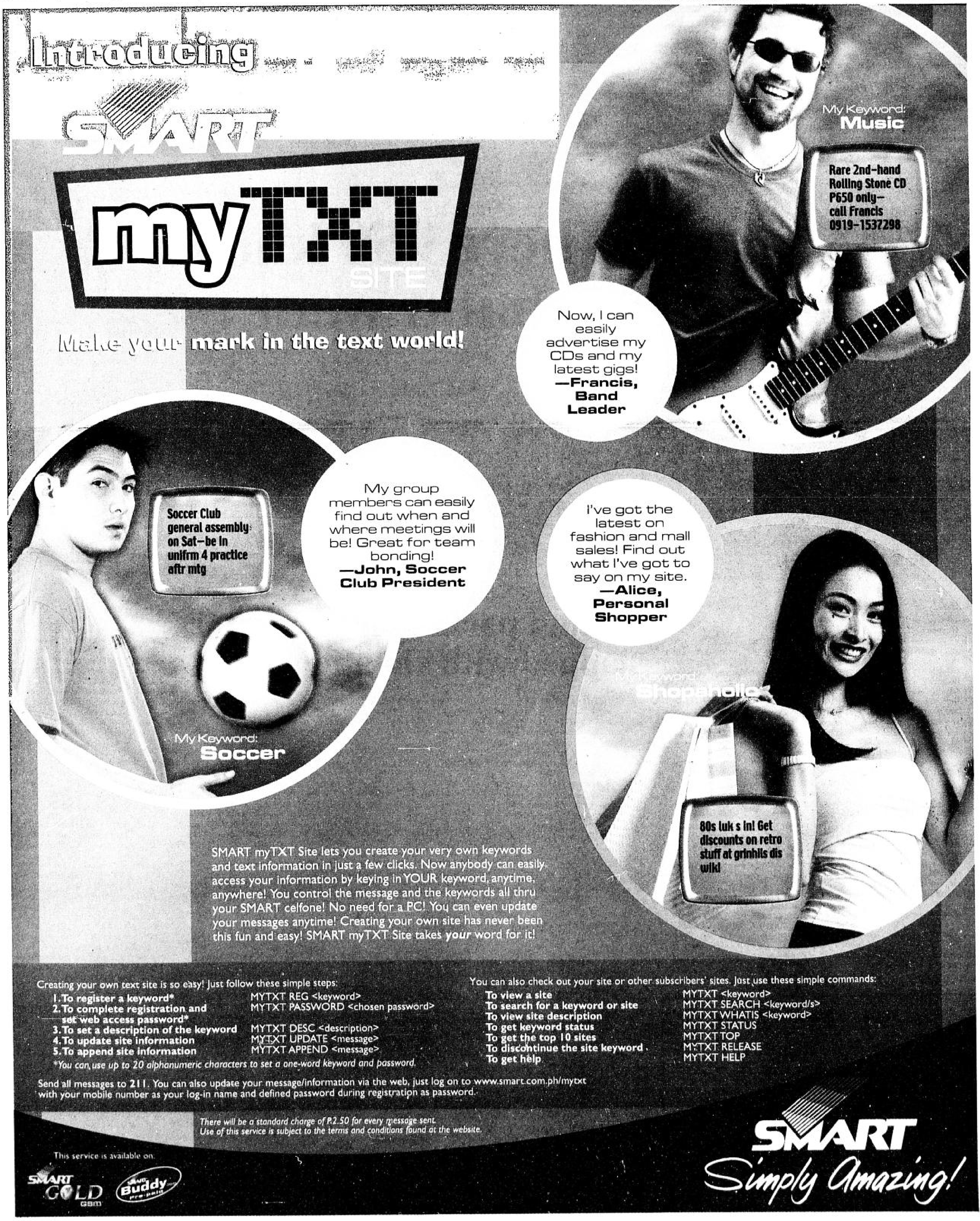
Mayor Maridez Fernando yesterday warned residents to avoid buying merchandise from sidewalk vendors or the buyers would be fined P300.

Fernando issued the warning after he noted that constant police raids against sidewalk vendors were ineffective.

City Ordinance No. 201, which was passed in 1997, banned ambulant vending in the city because it not only caused traffic congestion but was also found to cause health hazards since the products being sold were mostly no longer fresh.

The law meant to rid the streets of illegal vendors, but the city government found it ineffective

BUY FROM MARIKINA/A18



Introducing SMART myTXT SITE

Make your mark in the text world!

My Keyword: Music

Rare 2nd-hand Rolling Stone CD P650 only—call Francis 0919-1537298

Now, I can easily advertise my CDs and my latest gigs! —Francis, Band Leader

Soccer Club general assembly on Sat—be in unifrm 4 practice aftr mtg

My group members can easily find out when and where meetings will be! Great for team bonding! —John, Soccer Club President

My Keyword: Soccer

I've got the latest on fashion and mall sales! Find out what I've got to say on my site. —Alice, Personal Shopper

My Keyword: Shopaholic

80s luk s in! Get discounts on retro stuff at grinhils dis wik!

SMART myTXT Site lets you create your very own keywords and text information in just a few clicks. Now anybody can easily access your information by keying in YOUR keyword, anytime, anywhere! You control the message and the keywords all thru your SMART celfone! No need for a PC! You can even update your messages anytime! Creating your own site has never been this fun and easy! SMART myTXT Site takes *your* word for it!

Creating your own text site is so easy! Just follow these simple steps:

1. To register a keyword*	MYTXT REG <keyword>
2. To complete registration and set web access password*	MYTXT PASSWORD <chosen password>
3. To set a description of the keyword	MYTXT DESC <description>
4. To update site information	MYTXT UPDATE <message>
5. To append site information	MYTXT APPEND <message>

**You can use up to 20 alphanumeric characters to set a one-word keyword and password.*

You can also check out your site or other subscribers' sites. Just use these simple commands:

To view a site	MYTXT <keyword>
To search for a keyword or site	MYTXT SEARCH <keyword/s>
To view site description	MYTXT WHATIS <keyword>
To get keyword status	MYTXT STATUS
To get the top 10 sites	MYTXT TOP
To discontinue the site keyword	MYTXT RELEASE
To get help	MYTXT HELP

Send all messages to **211**. You can also update your message/information via the web, just log on to www.smart.com.ph/mytxt with your mobile number as your log-in name and defined password during registration as password.

There will be a standard charge of P2.50 for every message sent.
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SMART Simply Amazing!

Metro 'cleared' of floodings, claims DPWH

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways yesterday claimed it has cleared Metro Manila of flooding except for some parts of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela and Marikina.

DPWH director for the National Capital Region Salvador Pleyto said the department's regular maintenance program helped increase the carrying capacity of existing drainage facilities.

This involved the cleaning, desilting and unclogging of existing drainage structures, dredging and cleaning of open waterways and unclogging of manholes and drainage mains and laterals, he said.

In his report to Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, Pleyto said all areas are clear of flooding except for the third Metro Manila engineering district covering Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela. He added that the Tumana Bridge in Marikina is not passable.

"The flood-carrying capacity of the existing Metro Manila drainage system is being reduced by silting which has been one of the main causes of flash floods and the increased frequency of flooding," Pleyto said.

He said an estimated 3,000 cubic meters equivalent to 600 fully laden trucks of garbage and other solid materials are indiscriminately disposed daily in rivers, *esteros*, drains and waterways.

"After being cleaned, these *esteros* become filled again with garbage within three to four weeks," Pleyto said.

Let's give Danny Devnani moral support

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF THE testimony of Danny Devnani (real name: Dharm Devnani) at the Senate inquiry on Thursday was convincing, it's because all his words came from the heart.

I met Danny through Col. Victor Corpus, military intelligence chief and the nemesis of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

"Danny *Bombay*," as his Filipino friends call him, is under the protective custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp). He doesn't leave his house without Isafp agents tailing him. His house is discreetly watched 24 hours a day by Isafp men.

* * *

When I met Devnani, he answered my questions about his relationship with Erap and Charlie "Atong" Ang spontaneously. Although he is not as fluent in Tagalog as he is good in English, his words rang with sincerity.

"The real leaders of Kuratong Baleleng are Erap, Ping and Charlie "Atong" Ang," he said matter-of- factly.

He said that Erap, Ping and Atong introduced the bank robbery gang from Ozamiz City to kidnapping.

"Before (the three) came into the picture, "the 43-year-old Devnani said, "Kuratong was only engaged in bank robbery."

Most of the information I've written about Erap, Ping and Atong's relationship to the gang came from Devnani.

* * *

Until Erap came into his life, Devnani was a wealthy import-export businessman who lived in tranquil bliss with his wife and three children.

"I was a very successful businessman, a respected member of the Indian community and a devoted family man," he said.

Eli Gardiner, chief of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) during Erap's tenure, introduced him to then Vice President Joseph Estrada in 1992.

He became a habitue of Club 419 that Erap owned after their first meeting. Erap became fond of him and gave him the moniker Danny *Bombay*. Because of Erap, he became friend to such lowlife characters as Atong Ang, policeman-police character Eddie Villanueva, Kuratong's No. 2 man Joel Arnan and police officer Quinting "Totoy" Llorente.

* * *

Erap denies that he was ever close to Devnani.

Oh, yeah? How come it was Devnani who owned up the money that then Vice President Erap was gambling away at the Heritage Hotel casino when he was caught on camera? Erap said he was only holding the cards of Devnani who was behind him at the time.

And how come Erap "sold" Club 419 to Devnani in the aftermath of a much-publicized murder inside it? Former basketball star Ernie Tuadles was shot dead by Ambet Antonio after the latter caught Tuadles allegedly cheating in a card game? On paper, Devnani owned the club but the real owner was still Erap.

How come Devnani was seen by Erap's side in many public gatherings?

* * *

There's a saying in Tagalog: *Kung galit ka sa isang tao, turuan mong magsugal* (If you hate a person, teach him how to gamble).

Atong and Totoy Llorente taught Devnani how to gamble. That started his downfall. That's how he learned about the illegal activities of people in Erap's inner circle.

Devnani lost millions of pesos at the casino. He was encouraged to borrow from Llorente who is a gambling financier at the casino.

Llorente also financed the gambling splurge of Jinggoy Estrada, the ousted president's son. Jinggoy lost hundreds of millions at the casino.

But unlike Jinggoy who could easily pay his gambling debts because of he was reportedly into smuggling and other illegal activities, Devnani became bankrupt.

* * *

Deep in debt, Devnani asked his creditors to give him time to pay up. That's when he learned about their illegal activities.

Atong Ang, Devnani said, told him to spy on wealthy Indian businessmen who would be kidnapped by the Kuratong Baleleng, with Erap, Ping and Atong as its new leader.

The Indian said he refused, saying he couldn't turn traitor to his compatriots. But Atong Ang, Devnani said, got the information on would-be Indian kidnap victims somewhere else.

* * *

Devnani said he was even able to save some Indians from being kidnapped by Atong and his group by forewarning them.

"Please don't leave your house because I was told something will happen to you," he told would-be kidnap victims.

Atong Ang stopped kidnapping Indians and concentrated on the Chinese, Devnani said, because relatives of Indian victims didn't pay the ransom amount demanded by the kidnappers.

"*Mga barat* (penny pinchers)," Atong Ang described the Indians.

Devnani said he once confronted Atong Ang on the disappearance of an Indian businessman whose relatives sought his (Devnani's) help because of his closeness to Erap, then the head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC).

Ang admitted to Devnani the missing Indian was with them and that he should act as the middleman which he did.

The Indian kidnap victim was released after his relatives paid P30 million ransom.

* * *

All the kidnapping activities allegedly had the blessing of Erap and Ping, who was chief of PACC's anti-kidnapping Task Force Habagat.

Atong allegedly told Devnani that the proceeds of the ransom payments would go to financing Erap's presidential campaign.

A month before the 1992 presidential elections, Devnani overheard Ang ordering over the phone to stop the kidnappings. Atong Ang reportedly told the guy on the other end, *"Ayaw na ni Ping,"* Devnani said.

***

I asked Devnani if he knew the consequences of his testimony days before he faced the Senate inquiry.

"I fear for my family. I fear for my life. But these evil men should be exposed for the good of the country," Devnani said.

Devnani is married to a Chinese-Filipino. They have three children, aged 15, 10, and 7.

He is more Filipino than many of us. He loves this country more than many of us. We should give him the moral support he needs at this time.

Napolcom warns on fake Ping signature

By Nelson F. Flores

NATIONAL Police Commission vice chair and executive officer Rogelio Pureza warned the public from accepting forged Philippine National Police pension checks bearing the fake signature of Sen. Panfilo Lacson who is former PNP chief.

Pureza made the warning after a number of business establishments in the cities of Baguio, Iloilo and Dagupan were victimized.

He said the forged checks were issued in the names of SPO1 Eduardo Bautista, Noli Reyes, Romeo Colado Tadeo, SPO2 Daniel Castro Abad and SPO2 Rolando Santos Asia.

"But we don't have the names of these persons on our rolls," Pureza said.

He said the amounts presented in the checks range from P4,700 to P4,900 and were supposed to be cashed with the Land Bank of the Philippines.

The Land Bank will not honor the checks because it has been warned about the syndicate, according to Pureza.

He said former local government secretary Alfredo Lim earlier ordered the Napolcom to investigate the syndicate but members of the investigating team were "pressured to drop their probe" after the names of ranking PNP personnel were linked to the scam.

1 killed, 3 hurt in Caloocan stabbing

A DRIVER was killed while three other men were injured when a drunken man went on a stabbing spree in a Caloocan restaurant on Thursday night.

Pedro Managuit suffered several stab wounds and died while being brought to the Dr. Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, said investigator PO3 Carmelito Silvino.

Managuit's brother Elorde and drivers Ronald Abagon, 21, and Fortunato Pacliban, 25, were also repeatedly stabbed by the unidentified suspect, investigation showed.

The suspect and three other men were also drinking at Del Bar and Billiards in Bagong Silang, Caloocan about 9 p.m. Thursday.

Two of the victims were waiting for a ride outside the bar when the suspect and his group left their table and confronted them, police said.

After stabbing two of the men, the suspect went back to the bar and also stabbed the victims' companions, the investigator said.

None of the witnesses knew the attacker and his companions, who all ran outside the bar right after the stabbing, police said.

The wounded were taken to Jose Rodriguez and later transferred to East Avenue Medical Center. Police are still looking for the suspect.

Christian V. Esguerra

QC dad wants deal with Paref-Northfield school nullified

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

THE FIGHT over a P1-billion lot the Quezon City government owned has become a full-blown battle after a councilor formally sought the revocation of what he described as a "highly anomalous deal."

In a resolution filed on Wednesday afternoon, fourth district councilor Antonio Inton Jr. asked the city council to nullify the memorandum of agreement entered into by the city government and Paref-Northfield.

The MOA gave the exclusive school for boys the authority to use the 3.1-hectare city property over a 50-year period rent-free.

The filing of the resolution came after residents of Greenmeadows expressed strong opposition to the construction of the school in the vicinity, citing its adverse effect on the traffic flow in the area.

The residents also questioned the deal, saying that it placed the local government at a disadvantageous position.

In his proposed resolution, Inton stressed that the provisions of the MOA were disadvantageous to the city government considering that it allowed Paref-Northfield rent-free use of the lot for 50 years while obligating the city to pay 25 percent of the lot's assessed value at the end of the period. Should the city government fail to pay the amount, the school would use the property for another 50 years still rent-free.

The MOA also allows the school to mortgage the property or use it as collateral with private banks.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 25, 2001
20th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17*
Gospel: *Mt 23:1-12*

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees sat on the seat of Moses. So you shall do and observe all they say, but do not do as they do, for they do not do what they say. They tie up heavy burdens and load them on the shoulders of the people, but they do not even raise a finger to move them. They do everything in order to be seen by people; so they wear very wide bands of the Law around their foreheads, and robes with large tassels. They enjoy the first place at feasts and reserved seats in the synagogues, and being greeted in the marketplace and being called 'Master' by the people.

But you, do not let yourselves be called *Master* because you have only one Master, and all of you are brothers and sisters. Neither should you call anyone on earth *Father*, because you have only one Father, he who is in heaven. Nor should you be called *leader*, because Christ is the only leader for you. Let the greatest among you be the servant of all. For whoever makes himself great shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be made great."

Commentary:

Leadership is needed in a community but it is easily misused for selfish purposes, to the detriment of the people. This happened in Judaism and also in the early Church, even to the extent that it became a real concern for the evangelist. Against this background, he described Jesus as a teacher who was faithful to what he taught. For him Jesus was a good leader because he saw himself as a servant, and saw his mission as one of service and love. This Jesus challenges the leaders to follow his example and to consider themselves also as disciples and servants. Only this type of leadership is in the position to bring about a community in which the dignity of every person as a child of God is guaranteed and promoted.

Father, your Son became the servant of all to teach us how to relate to one another. Grant that we may learn from him in all situations of life.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW (CORPORATION LAW)—Principal function of the SEC—The principal function of the SEC is the supervision and control of corporations, partnerships and associations with the end in view that investments in these entities may be encouraged and protected, and their activities pursued for the protection of economic development. In other words, the jurisdiction of the SEC should be construed in relation to its power of control and supervision over all corporations to encourage active public participation in the affairs of private corporations by way of investments. Thus, even if the private respondent were not a stockholder, he is nonetheless a member of the public whose investment in the corporation the law seeks to protect and encourage as his purchase of the shares of stock has been established. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, TCL Sales Corporation v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 129777, January 5, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Where 950 kilos of shabu went

By Nelson F. Flores

LOCAL Government Secretary and National Police Commission Chair Joey Lina is at a loss as to why only 50 kilos of the 1,000 kilograms of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu seized from 10 suspected drug traffickers in Lipa City last April were presented as evidence in their prosecution.

Earlier, Rogelio Pureza, Napolcom vice chair and executive officer, asked the Philippine National Police to reveal where the remaining 950 kilos of the confiscated illegal substance could be.

When reporters pressed him for an answer, Lina said most of shabu seized during the April 28 raid by PNP anti-narcotics agents in Barangay Sto. Niño, Lipa City were unprocessed and only about 53.5 kilos were ready for mass distribution and consumption.

He said this could be the reason why government prosecutors presented only a small portion of the shabu before the Lipa City Regional Trial Court.

"Had you (members of media) bothered to get my side you would have known this fact," a grim-faced Lina said. "What I did is to have the confiscated product appraised by narcotics agents who later determined that it could produce 1,000 kilos of shabu with an estimated street value of P2 billion."

But reporters covering the Napolcom said Lina, who regularly holds office at the DILG building in Quezon City, seldom visits his Napolcom office and was very difficult to contact.

Lina, however, asked reporters for copies of documents in their possession showing that a huge portion of the confiscated substance is missing.

Earlier, Lina was quoted as saying that the seizure of 1,000 kilos of high-grade shabu was the biggest drug haul in the country for the year.

There was no indication in the report that the confiscated substance still had to be processed as Lina claimed.

Pureza sought a clarification from the PNP after learning that government prosecutors presented only about 53 kilos of shabu as evidence against Benjamin Marcelo, a suspected member of the Binondo drug cartel; Peter Ong, Chuy Chuacoco, Tan Chin Hui, Tan Chin Bun, Lee Chang, Chang Sian, Ko Kiat, Wong Soi Kwan, and Lin Chun, all alleged members of the Hong Kong Triad.

Records obtained by the Napolcom showed that the anti-drug agents of the PNP arrested Marcelo and his nine companions when they raided his six-hectare lot in Barangay Sto. Niño. The raid yielded 1,000 kilos of shabu and a laptop computer.

The records also showed that no less than Lina and PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza inspected the shabu.

Pureza said the PNP must shed light on the matter to prevent speculation that confiscated illegal drugs are being recycled and sold back in the streets.

Mehan parking lot operators slapped with violation notice

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday penalized the operators of the controversial "Park N Ride Project" at the Mehan Garden for ignoring its previous order to stop construction work there.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez slapped the notice of violation (NOV) against Park N Ride Inc. a week after a cease and desist order (CDO) was issued against the construction.

The NOV effectively fines the company P50,000 for every day of violation beginning Aug. 22 and until all construction activities are halted.

The company was also asked to submit a verified written explanation of its violation within seven days.

"We have confirmed reports that construction activities continued in the Park N Ride Project despite an existing CDO, in defiance of a lawful order," Alvarez said. "As a consequence, we are imposing an NOV on the project."

The DENR issued the CDO after documents presented by the National Historical Institute (NHI) showed that the project is within the historic Mehan Garden.

As such, it cannot be modified or developed without the proper certification from the NHI as prescribed by law.

Section 5 of Presidential Decree 260 of 1973, as amended by PD 1505 of 1978, states that it is unlawful for any person to modify, alter, repair or destroy the original features of any national shrine, monument, landmark and other important historical edifices that the NHI has declared and classified as such without prior written permission from the Chairman of the NHI.

Alvarez said a DENR-NCR monitoring team he dispatched reported that the construction stopped between Aug. 14 and 18.

But another check on Aug. 22 showed that construction activities such as scaffolding assembly, second level platform installation and frames fabrication (welding), among others, still went on.

The team's report also said Park N Ride Inc. engineers were allegedly forced to continue with the construction after receiving a letter from lawyer Melchor Monsod, Manila City legal officer, reminding the firm of its contract with City Hall to complete the construction of the project.

Manor owner's wife . . .

(From page A17)

The lawyers said earlier this week that the Genatos were willing to face the charges and that they would attend the preliminary investigation to prove that they were not hiding.

William Genato was charged on Tuesday with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide.

Ambrosio expressed confidence that their clients would eventually be cleared of the charges.

"I have a feeling that they will be acquitted because the fact that the City Hall issued them a temporary license proved that they were operating legally," he said.

Agcaoili rescheduled the next preliminary investigation for Aug. 29. The rescheduling had nothing to do with absence of the Genatos but was based on the request of the Bureau of Fire Protection.

BFP lawyer Edwin Tabaranza sought an extension of the investigation to give them more time to prepare and ensure an airtight case.

The BFP lawyer said they would also file another case against the Genatos for violations of PD 1185 or the Fire Code of the Philippines.

Tabaranza said they would leave the reckless imprudence case to the Philippine National Police to allow the BFP lawyers to "concentrate more on the violations."

Most victims of the Manor Hotel fire, who succumbed to smoke inhalation, were trapped between a searing, smoky corridor and the ornate, white anti-burglar bars on the hotel room windows.

Fire officials said a short circuit in the ceiling of a third-floor stockroom sparked the blaze. Thick smoke spread quickly through the stairways and ventilation shaft, and accumulated in the upper floors, where most of the victims were sleeping.

Authorities said the Manor Hotel's fire escapes led to dead ends; the windows were barred; the hotel had no fire alarm, sprinkler system or emergency lights; fire exits were blocked or locked; and the fire hose cabinet contained no hose.

Buy from . . .

(From page A17)

because consumers continued patronizing the sellers of cheap merchandise on side streets.

"We made amendments to the law, and this time we included the buyers," said Fernando, whose husband Bayani is her predecessor as Marikina mayor.

Under the amended law, residents caught buying goods from sidewalk vendors will automatically be fined P300 or will be reprimanded in public.

A monitoring team from the City Hall said there are a number of sidewalk vendors in the wet markets at NGI Parang and in Barangays Concepcion and Bayan-Bayanan.

"The vendors only continue their illegal selling because the public patronizes them," a monitoring team member said. "But with the amended law, we hope to be able to crack down on them."

Testimonial for Aklan officials

THE ARCHBISHOP Gabriel M. Reyes Memorial Foundation, led by civic leader Vic D. Cunanan, president, will tender a testimonial dinner in honor of Aklan's new congresswoman, an outgoing congressman, the re-elected governor, vice-governor and a new mayor today, Aug. 25, at the Century Park Hotel, Manila.

Kati M. Delos Reyes, chair of the testimonial committee, said three-term outgoing Aklan Rep. Allen Sales Quyimpo, new congresswoman Gabrielle V. Calizo, re-elected governor Florencio T. Miraflores, vice governor Jean Rodriguez, and new mayor Johnny Sanchez will be cited by the Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes Memorial Foundation for their outstanding achievements.

'HI CLASS'

THE CENTER for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines (CLTS) is convening another seminar on High Impact Classroom Learning Activities, Styles and Strategies (HI CLASS) on Aug. 30-31 at the YMCA International Hostel (back of SM Manila and Manila City Hall). Registration is still open. Call 374-4967 (Vic Macaspac) or 936-6790 (Ruben Gatchalian). Seminar facilitators Henry S. Tenedero and Albert Saldajeno are shown warmly posing with the HI CLASS Batch 5 participants. Aside from learning styles and multiple intelligences, the seminar also features mime, puppetry and songwriting in classroom learning activities.

New Wave party

HALFLIFE Halfdeath, one of the pioneering new wave bands in the local music scene, will headline "Back to the Edge," a sixth anniversary celebration of Mayric's Club tonight.

"Back to the Edge" is a monthly New Wave party at Mayric's. Halflife Halfdeath emerged in the '80s during the heyday of New Wave music in the Philippines. The group released its debut album, "Pymyth Prahn," in 1996, with singles like "Alimango," "Kapit-Tuko" and "Butterflies."

To perform with Halflife Halfdeath at Mayric's are other New Wave bands like Dead Popstars, The Late Isabelle Delgado, Fred and other surprise guests.

For tickets, call 0917-923-3052.

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7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
8	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
9	PLANET OF THE APES
10	SEX MEDUSA
11	RADYO
12	ANIMAL

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2	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	ANIMAL
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
7	SEX MEDUSA
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
9	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
10	SHREK
11	RADYO
12	IRA

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1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SHREK
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	IRA

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1	SEX MEDUSA
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	IRA
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
5	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
7	PLANET OF THE APES
8	SHREK
9	ANIMAL
10	MOULIN ROUGE
11	RADYO
12	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

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1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	SHREK
4	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
5	IRA
6	RADYO
7	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	ANIMAL
10	BROTHERHOOD

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2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SEX MEDUSA

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5	DUDURUGIN KITA...
6	RADYO
7	PLANET OF THE APES

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2	CLOSED
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7	CLOSED
8	MOULIN ROUGE

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2	SHREK
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	RADYO
5	VENUS
6	PLANET OF THE APES

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3	PLANET OF THE APES
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GLORIETTA 4

1	SHREK In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	A PIECE OF EDEN (Phil. Premiere) In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	PLANET OF THE APES In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	MOULIN ROUGE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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1	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	PLANET OF THE APES In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
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2	PLANET OF THE APES In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
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4	MOULIN ROUGE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
8 ([illegible])	RADYO
9 ([illegible])	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
10 ([illegible])	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	VENUS
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3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
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2 (DTS)	
3	IRA

Masagana CINEMA
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1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	BROTHERHOOD

starmall Movies
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2	BROTHERHOOD
3	IRA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	TEENAGE DIARIES

Metropolis
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2	RESERVE
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	IRA
5	SHREK
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	BROTHERHOOD
8	VENUS

LOUIE'S CINEMA LUCASFILM THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	SHREK

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1	DR. DO LITTLE
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
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1	
2	
3	

Spring
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1	IRA
A	PLANET OF THE APES

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

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2	VENUS
3	SECRET GAME
4	GIRLS

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

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2	RESERVE
3	IRA
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	SEX MEDUSA
7 (DTS)	SHREK
8 (SDDS)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	IRA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

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2	BROTHERHOOD
3	VENUS
4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SEX MEDUSA
6 (DOLBY)	SHREK
7 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
9	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

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2	VENUS
3	BROTHERHOOD
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6	IRA
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8	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

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THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RESERVE
4	VENUS

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3	VENUS

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2	SHREK
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	IRA
5	VENUS

New Divisoria Mall
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tel 244.4619

1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	VENUS

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	IRA
2	VENUS
3	PLANET OF THE APES

Berma
tel 870.2029 or 30

1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BROTHERHOOD
2	VENUS
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	VENUS
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TOM CATS
2 (DTS)	VENUS
3 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	GET OVER IT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	VENUS
2 (DOLBY)	GET OVER IT
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	TOM CATS

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(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BROTHERHOOD
2	VENUS
3	IRA
4 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Lianas MovieCity
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2	VENUS
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	TOM CATS
5	BAGANSYA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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2	STICKMEN
3	VENUS

Olivarez Los Baños
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1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	STICKMEN
3	VENUS

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1	DRIVEN
2	RED DIARIES
3	VENUS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	STICKMEN
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RUMBLE FROM THE BRONX

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	VENUS
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	VENUS

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	VENUS
2	REPLICANT
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1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	VENUS
3	ANIMAL
4	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Jade Cinema
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2	COOL DUDES
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8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
10	MOULIN ROUGE

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	SHREK
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
6	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
7	PLANET OF THE APES

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
2	SHREK
3	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	IRA
7	BROTHERHOOD
8	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

IMUS (046) 471-8188

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2	IRA
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
5	SHREK
6	SHREK

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	CATS & DOGS
4	MOULIN ROUGE
5	RADYO
6	STICKMEN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SHREK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	BROTHERHOOD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SEX MEDUSA
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TUHOG/ RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
ODEON	PLANET OF THE APES
ODEON-2	VENUS
ROBEN	IRA
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	IRA
QUEZON-1	SEX MEDUSA
REMAR	SEX MEDUSA
REMAR-2	PLANET OF THE APES
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79/ 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SHREK
CINEMA-2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IRA
CINEMA-2	VENUS
CINEMA-3	ANIMAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	RADYO
CINEMA-7	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-8	COOL DUDES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SHREK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHREK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-12	BROTHERHOOD
CINEMA-14	SCREAM
CINEMA-15	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-2	SHREK
CINEMA-3	SHREK
CINEMA-4	SHREK
CINEMA-5	CRAZY BEAUTIFUL
CINEMA-6	PLANET OF THE APES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	WALANG MATIGAS NA PUTO SA GUTOM
CINEMA-2	BLOODY WISH
CINEMA-4	HAPDI SA TAG-INIT

P1,000 for Manila's malnourished children

By Jerome Aning

IT MAY only be P1,000, but the loan would go a long way to feed the malnourished children of 189 parents who were at the Manila City Hall on Wednesday to claim the amount.

Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday distributed the loans—with no strings attached, he stressed—to the beneficiaries of the livelihood assistance program called Paggawad ng Tulong Puhunan, in simple rites at city hall's Bulwagan Villegas.

The loan beneficiaries are parents of second- and third-degree malnourished children from the capital's six districts. The children were identified and processed by barangay health center workers.

"We cannot wait for the economy to improve to benefit the poorest of the poor," Atienza said. "We have to do what we can to help them earn a living."

In a press statement, the mayor's office said the loan is "interest-free with easy repayment terms."

The livelihood assistance, which complements the city's nutrition program, is a project of the Manila health and social welfare departments, together with the Kababaihan ng Maynila, a non-government foundation headed by Atienza's wife Evelina.

Most of the children were accompanied by their mothers. They thanked the city government for the financial assistance, saying it would give them an opportunity to augment their income.

Nora Relato, 28, a mother of four from Tondo, who sells cold drinks in front of the Tondo High School, is thankful for the loan. "With it, I can add 'banana-cue' to the snacks I'm selling," she said.

Relato's 23-year-old husband Jesus, earns a living by driving a pedicab provided by the city's Sikap Padyak Program. But she said their joint income is barely enough to buy nutritious food for their young children.

The mayor said the loan distribution is part of Manila's commitment under the Fifth Country Program for Children of the United Nations Children's Fund.

"We have a commitment under Unicef's (program) to make Manila a child-friendly city," the mayor said. "This is one of the steps that we are taking, aside from the other child development programs that are already in place."

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Public should share blame for fires–DILG

By Jerome Aning

A TOP official of the Department of Interior and Local Government virtually admitted on Thursday that government is ill-equipped to fight big fires because of the limited budget.

Wencelito Andanar, DILG undersecretary for peace and order, also said that the public should also share the blame for the occurrence of destructive fires for failing to follow fire safety measures as indicated in the Fire Code.

"(Fire safety) is not only the sole concern of the government but of all affected groups and individuals," Andanar told reporters during the weekly media forum at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Manila.

Andanar said government is compensating for the lack of fund by making the public more aware of fire prevention measures.

He also revealed that the DILG and the Bureau of Fire Protection do not only lack modern fire-fighting equipment, but even fire-fighting personnel.

As if to prove his point, a three-story commercial establishment in Quiapo, Manila was gutted Thursday morning in a brief fire said to be caused by faulty electric circuit.

A 45-minute fire razed Lai Lin Food House, owned by a certain Lito Tan, located on the corner of Quezon Boulevard and Bautista Street, destroying P200,000 in property.

Fire fighters said they did not see any fire extinguisher in the place.

Andanar said that due to limited funds, it would take more than 10 years to modernize the BFP with the purchase of fire trucks and the needed fire-fighting equipment.

He said the DILG is currently mandated to procure only about 100 fire trucks a year when more than 8,000 municipalities in the country do not even have one.

He said the BFP has only about 16,000 fire-fighting personnel when it actually needs at least 36,000. The BFP budget only allows for the recruitment of 1,000 personnel each year. It would take 20 years for the bureau to reach the ideal 36,000.

But Alvin Estrada, spokesman of the Manila-based United Fire Fighters of the Philippines Inc., belied Andanar's claims, saying that the BFP, "if it really wanted, has more than enough money" to procure necessary and basic fire-fighting equipment.

He said the BFP has a P2-billion budget for this year and is reportedly asking Congress to increase it to P3 billion.

Estrada also claimed government's fire safety efforts are being hampered by the alleged numerous anomalous transactions taking place in the BFP over the past six years.

"Millions of pesos in government funds went to the pockets of some corrupt BFP officials," Estrada said.

FIRE TRAP? Local officials are again closely watching structures like this. ERIK ARAZAS

Guard slays driver

By Jerome Aning

A DRUNKEN tricycle driver was shot to death by a female security guard whom he allegedly tried to attack in Tondo, Manila late Thursday night.

Alberto Navarro, 37, of 2945 Molave St., Tondo, suffered a bullet wound in the chest and did not reach the Ospital ng Tondo alive, police said.

SPO1 Edgardo Ko of the city police's homicide section said the victim and a certain "Omeng" quarreled while they were having a drinking spree along Molave Street about 11 p.m. Thursday.

But their other drinking buddies pacified the two, and Navarro left to go back to his house, police said.

On the way to his house, Navarro passed by the TLE Building at 1099 Molave, where suspect Charry Arellano was posted.

Arellano, 29, an employee of the Triskelion Security Agency, said she accosted Navarro because the victim was cursing at the tenants who were entering the building.

She told SPO1 Ko that Navarro got angry and tried to attack her, so she had no choice but to open fire at him.

Passersby brought Navarro to the hospital, while Arellano hid inside the building when she learned that Navarro's relatives were waiting for her outside, police said.

Arellano later surrendered to members of the Western Police District's special weapons and tactics team.

Pen gun hits teener

By Christian V. Esguerra

A TEENAGE boy nearly lost his life on Thursday when the improvised gun that he and his friend were playing with accidentally went off in Caloocan City.

Gerald Cristobal, 14, of Grace Park, Caloocan was wounded in the left cheek after he was accidentally shot by his 17-year-old friend about 5:30 p.m., police said.

Cristobal was rushed to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Police said Cristobal's friend was showing off the "pen gun" that he had just bought for P100 when it suddenly went off.

The four-and-a-half inch gun was made of metal, yellow rubber and black electrical tape, police said.

The young suspect surrendered after the incident.

Police said he would be made to undergo a paraffin test.

Phone thief shoots waiter

By Agnes Donato

A JOBLESS man is now facing homicide charges for shooting a man who refused to let go of his Nokia 5110 mobile phone during a robbery attempt on Wednesday night in Mandaluyong City.

Suspect Lorenzo Ibanez, 22, of Tungko Mangga, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, is also facing charges for illegal possession of firearms, said Chief Insp. Efren Jugo, chief of the Mandaluyong police criminal investigation division.

Police said victim Mel Ibunez, 23, a waiter of Horizon Edsa Plaza and a resident of Kagitingan in Tondo, Manila, is now being treated at the Mandaluyong City Medical Center for a gunshot wound.

Investigation showed that the victim was on board a jeepney when the suspect approached him at the corner of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard.

Police said the suspect drew his handgun and announced a holdup. The suspect then took the victim's wallet containing P55 cash and his Nokia 5110 cellular phone, police said.

'Inquirer' folds up, with regrets

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE BAGONG Pilipino Inquirer, a Quezon City-based tabloid which was sued by the Philippine Daily Inquirer last year for copyright infringement, has folded up and apologized for using the name "Inquirer."

Leonardo Padilla, publisher of the defunct tabloid, wrote Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot on Aug. 17 to inform him that the Bagong Pilipino Inquirer had ceased publication.

"We deeply regret whatever damage may have been caused to your publication," Padilla said.

Padilla wrote Yambot to extend "my deepest apologies to your company for our use of the masthead 'Bagong Pilipino Inquirer' in our tabloid publication which showed that our publication is related to that of yours when in truth and in fact, it was not."

"We undertake not to commit the same act in the future," Padilla added.

Yambot said the letter of apology was part of a compromise agreement reached by the tabloid and the Inquirer on March 30 as a condition for the settlement of the case. Aside from committing to stop publication, the tabloid also agreed to pay a certain amount to the INQUIRER to cover the cost of litigation.

The now defunct tabloid caught the attention of INQUIRER readers sometime in June last year when it began circulating in Quezon City, particularly in the Fairview area where it holds office. The Inquirer got calls asking whether the tabloid was a sister publication.

Inquirer lawyers filed a case against the tabloid for trademark infringement, unfair competition and asking for damages before the Makati City Municipal Trial Court. Presiding Judge Nemesio Felix then ordered the tabloid to stop using the "Inquirer look" on its front page pending hearings on alleged trademark infringement.

The order enjoined the tabloid publishers and editors to "cease and desist from using the masthead of the Philippine Daily Inquirer or its equivalent or colorable imitation in their tabloid."

During the preliminary hearings on the case, Yambot noted that the Bagong Pilipino Inquirer's masthead used the key word "Inquirer" and was set in a typeface similar to that of the Inquirer.

He said the tabloid's masthead was also set against a blue background similar to the blue background of the INQUIRER masthead. Yambot also said that the tabloid's slogan Parehas, Walang Takot sa Balita" was practically the Filipino translation of the Inquirer's "Balanced News, Fearless Views."

The INQUIRER's masthead was registered with the Bureau of Patents, Trademarks and Technology Transfers on March 28, 1993.

The INQUIRER has not changed its masthead since it was first published in December 1985. Yambot said that because of the similarities in the mastheads, the average reader would think the tabloid was a sister publication of the INQUIRER. He said this impression eroded the journalistic integrity of the Inquirer.

Yambot presented to the court some front-page clippings of the Bagong Pilipino Inquirer showing scantily dressed movie starlets like Piel Morena, Nini Jacinto and Tetchie Agbayani. He said the Philippine Daily Inquirer would not have used those photos.

He also noted the tabloid's use of headlines and teasers such as "Boobs ni Miya binuhusan ni Rodel nang alak," and "Rodel, halos maubusan ng lakas kina Miya, Sofia, at Nini." He said the Philippine Daily Inquirer would never use headlines like these.

Aside from similarities in typography and layout and the color of the mastheads, Yambot also noted the use by the tabloid of a skyline or umbrella head-the headline across the page above the masthead-was similar in type and layout to the INQUIRER's umbrella head.

Basketball players kill teener, wound girlfriend

By Jerome Aning

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy was shot dead while his girlfriend was seriously wounded when they were attacked by four basketball players who quarreled with the girl's brother in Tondo, Manila Tuesday night.

Rodel delos Santos of Area D, Gate 16, Parola Compound, Tondo, was shot in the back and died at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center about 4:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Delos Santos' girlfriend, Magnolia Arce, 17, also of Parola, remains confined in the same hospital after she was shot in the arm and left side of the body.

The four suspects—three of whom were later identified as Bong, Ateng and Gary—are being sought by police for murder and frustrated murder charges.

Delos Santos, Arce, her younger brother Gino and a friend named Luisa Gorson were playing basketball with the suspects about 11 p.m. Tuesday, when they began quarreling among themselves over foul calls, said SPO1 David Tuazon of the city police's homicide section.

Gino and the fourth suspect came to exchange blows, but their companions managed to pacify the two and persuaded them to go home, police said.

But as Delos Santos and his companions were walking home, they were waylaid by the suspects. Bong, who was allegedly armed with a homemade shotgun or "sumpak," fired on Delos Santos and Arce, police said.

Gino told SPO1 Tuazon that they tried to help Delos Santos, but the other suspects drew out their daggers and chased him, Luisa and Jay, another friend.

Luisa and some concerned residents later took Delos Santos and Arce to the hospital.

Delos Santos' body was taken to the Sanctuary Funeral Homes in Sta. Cruz.

2 young men arrested for 13-year-old's rape

By Agnes Donato

POLICE arrested on Thursday two suspects, one of whom is a 15-year-old boy, for allegedly raping a grade school student in Pasig City.

Rape charges were filed against the boy and Joseph Cañelas, 20, of Sitio Ilogin, Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig.

PO1 Christopher Orig, case investigator, said the rape took place about 3 p.m. on May 11 at the house of the 15-year-old suspect.

The 13-year-old victim was reportedly washing her hands at a water pump in front of the suspect's house when Cañelas approached her and poked a knife at her neck.

Cañelas and the other suspect then took the girl inside the house, where they undressed her and took turns in sexually abusing her.

The girl told police that she was not able to report the incident right away because the suspects threatened to kill her if she told anyone about what they did to her.

The girl added the suspects kept on threatening every time they see her arrive from school.

But on Tuesday night, a relative of the victim confronted Cañelas over rumors allegedly being spread by the suspects that the victim had been coming on to them.

A heated argument ensued and resulted in a fight, after which both were taken to the barangay hall.

The next day, the girl secretly told the barangay captain that there was no truth to the rumors, and confessed to him that she was raped by the suspects.

Pasig police didn't waste time and arrested the suspects about 1:30 a.m. Thursday.

Blaze hits Banawe parts shop

By Philip C. Tubeza

DESPITE the heavy monsoon rains, a one-hour fire broke out in Quezon City on Thursday and destroyed P1 million worth of property.

While no one was hurt in the fire at Fourland Spare Parts Corporation located in a three-story building at the corner of Banawe and K. Tanlad Streets in Barangay Josefa, Quezon City, arson investigators said the building had no adequate fire exits.

Businessman Sammy Tan owns Fourland Spare Parts Corporation, said arson investigator FO1 Fortunato Alde, of the Bureau of Fire protection.

As in the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire, investigators are looking into the possibility that an electrical short-circuit triggered the fire.

Alde said the fire began about 8:35 a.m. at the storeroom on the third floor of the building.

The blaze quickly spread to the surrounding rooms.

"But our firemen quickly responded and we were able to put it out about 9:21 a.m.," Alde said.

He said initial investigation showed that the damage reached P1 million because there were many expensive car spare parts in the storeroom.

Alde said the BFP would recommend to the building owners that they put up adequate fire exits.

He said that the fire exit "led into the center" of the building and not outside.

The BFP is currently inspecting various business establishments to make sure that they follow the safety precautions set by the Fire Code.

Sulo Hotel 'observing safety steps'

THE SULO Hotel would like to assure the public that fire safety measures as part of its operations are being properly observed. Fire exits with lighted signages, fire alarm systems, fire pumps and hoses, emergency lightings and fire extinguishers approximately 8 meters apart from each other have always been imposed by the management.

Added to this, The Sulo Hotel was issued a Fire Inspection Safety Certificate (No. 32140) on Nov. 24, 2000. It can be noted that although the two-story building with a basement is near the road, management deemed it important not to install any window grills. This will enable anybody to come out of the building should a fire occur.

Deemed as the premier business hotel in Quezon City, The Sulo Hotel continues in its commitment to serving the public in the best way possible. The Sulo Hotel is located along Matalino Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Man with one hand slain

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE are puzzled over the death of a man with an amputated left hand whose body was found on Wednesday in Taguig.

Police identified the man as Noel Debuso through identification cards found on him. He was only wearing denim shorts, police said.

Investigation by PO3 Alan Sigua of the Taguig Police Criminal Investigation Division showed that security guard Rey Saclao called police reporting that a body was found behind the SLR Price Department Store, Global City in Fort Bonifacio at about 5:45 p.m.

Police said Debuso's head was bashed in apparently with a hard object. But an autopsy would be performed on the body to determine the cause of death, police said.

Beautician busted in LP

By Alcuin Papa

MEMBERS of the Las Piñas City Police Drug Enforcement Unit on Thursday arrested a beautician who was doubling as a drug dealer.

Merly Ortilla, 44, married, and a resident of Block 22, Lot 2, Marcos Alvarez Avenue, Golden Acres, Talon 1 in Las Piñas City, was nabbed during a buy-bust operation, said PO2 Rufino Dalagdagan of the Las Piñas City DEU. Ortilla was arrested at her residence about 4:30 p.m. Thursday after police received information that she was dealing in illegal drugs in the area, police said.

Police found on Ortilla three grams of shabu contained in two plastic sachets.

Charges of violation of Republic Act 6425, known as the Dangerous Drugs Act, would be filed against the Ortilla before Las Piñas courts.

Wanted: 1,700 new policemen

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) is accepting applicants for police officers 1 (PO1) this year.

The NCRPO director, Deputy Director General Edgar C. Galvante, announced that the PNP national headquarters has authorized the recruitment of 1,700 police officers 1 for Metro Manila this year.

The new recruits will be appointed to the rank of police officer 1 and will receive a gross monthly salary of P10,851.50.

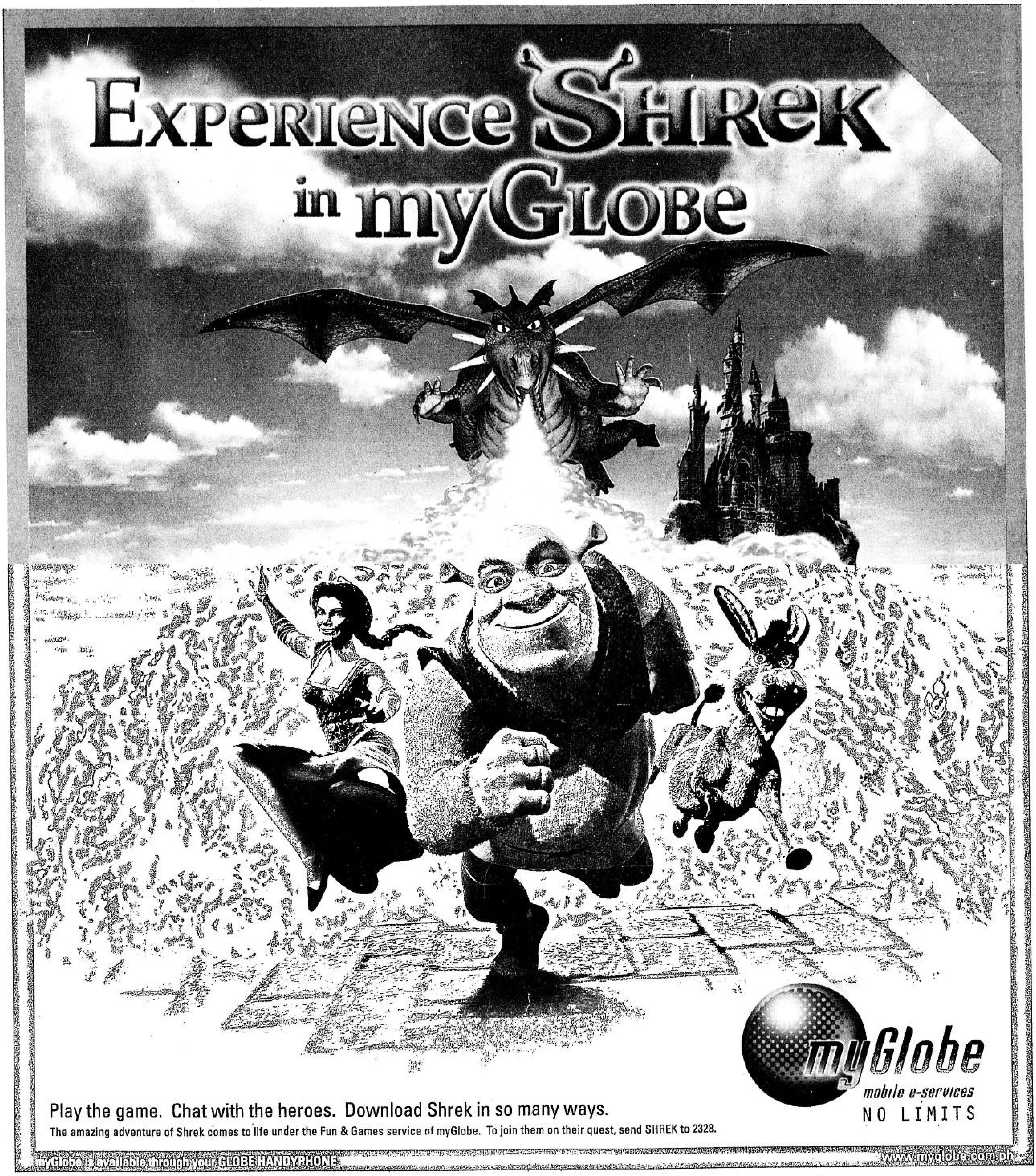
Galvante said the new recruits will fill the personnel shortage at the police stations and police community precinct level within NCRPO.

Applicants should be Filipino citizens; of good moral character; must have passed the psychiatric/psychological, drug and physical tests to be administered by the PNP or by any Napolcom-accredited government hospital; must possess a formal baccalaureate degree from a recognized school; must be eligible in accordance with the standards set by the Napolcom;

Must not have been dishonorably discharged from military employment or dismissed for cause from any civilian position in the government; must not have been convicted of an offense or crime involving moral turpitude; must not be less than 21 or more than 30 years of age.

Applicants must submit documents to the Office of the Chief, Regional Personnel and Human Resource Dvelopment Division, Recruitment Section, NCRPO, EIIB Bldg., NIA Road, National Government Center, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City or the Human Resource Development Division of Northern Police District; Eastern Police District; Western Police District; Southern Police District and Central Police District Offices not later than Sept. 6, 2001.

The required documents are bio-data, birth certificate authenticated by the NCSO, transcript of records or diploma, eligibility rating from Napolcom or the Civil Service Commission, local clearances, barangay clearance, police clearance, mayor's clearance, NBI clearance, handwriting specimen, fingerprints, whole body picture, self-addressed envelope with postage stamp.



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Abalos backs clamor for police control

ABALOS

TO ENSURE the supremacy of civilian rule and in view of persistent coup rumors, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. on Thursday endorsed the growing clamor of local executives to place the police under their supervision and control.

Abalos explained that despite the civilian character of the Philippine National Police, it is an undisputed fact that the police agency is run by former military men.

He said the military ties between the PNP leadership and their counterparts in the Armed Forces of the Philippines could not be broken by a mere change of "characters" in the PNP charter.

He said the move to revert police control to city and municipal mayors is timely considering the prevalent coup rumors. Control of police would give the necessary leverage and muscle to the civilian leadership in the event of a power grab by an unscrupulous faction of the AFP, he said.

Abalos said the real reason deposed President Marcos integrated the police force with the AFP was to secure his martial rule from civilian armed threats. After Marcos was overthrown and despite the creation of a civilian police force, the military retained its de facto control of the PNP, Abalos said.

Hence it is not surprising that key police officers are former military men.

The National Police Commission said it is studying the possibility of handing police control to local executives.

By Nelson F. Flores

Promotion of sacked ROTC chief 'sends wrong signal'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jerome Aning

CAUSE-ORIENTED groups were outraged over the reported promotion of the Army major who used to head the University of Santo Tomas' Reserve Officers Training Corps but was sacked for alleged anomalies which led to the murder of UST ROTC cadet Mark Welson Chua early this year.

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption and the newly formed Bantay ROTC yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to postpone the promotion of Maj. Demy Tejares, ex-commandant of UST ROTC.

Welson Chua, the father of the slain student, also criticized Ms Macapagal's promotion of Major Tejares to the rank of lieutenant colonel, saying that it "will send the wrong signal to the ROTC program and to the pressing need for accountability."

Chua, who is also a founding member of Bantay ROTC, provided reporters a copy of the Aug. 16 memorandum signed by the President and addressed to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, wherein the Chief Executive approved Tejares' promotion.

Tejares was among the 134 regular and reserved officers of the Philippine Army promoted by the President. Their retroactive promotion was considered effective March 1, 2001.

Chua said Tejares' promotion should come after the National Bureau of Investigation has completed its investigation of the abduction and murder of his son, Mark.

"This is adding insult to injury," Chua told the INQUIRER. "The military gave a medal for my son's bravery. Now it's promoting my son's victimizer."

Tejares and the entire UST ROTC staff were relieved early this year after Mark and another ROTC cadet officer, Romulo Yumul, filed a complaint at the Department of National Defense's Regional Community Defense Group-National Capital Region.

The two students accused the ROTC department of corruption, including systematic extortion and anomalous sale of ROTC uniforms, equipment and accessories.

Mark, 19, was abducted and murdered in March, his body was found floating in the Pasig River.

Military reservists were suspected of killing Chua for exposing the supposed anomalies in UST ROTC program.

The National Bureau of Investigation later arrested two low-ranking UST ROTC officials for the crime. Their cases are now pending at the Manila prosecutor's office.

In a statement, the cause-oriented Bantay ROTC described Tejares' promotion as an "irony of justice, honoring both victim and possible victimizer."

The group said that "the negligence of Major Tejares, at least, has caused the culture of graft and corruption to thrive at the UST-ROTC, which in turn caused Chua's death and all the problems we are now facing in the ROTC program."

In a separate statement, VACC head Dante Jimenez joined Bantay ROTC's call for Malacañang to review and reconsider the promotion.

Bantay-ROTC is composed of volunteers from the media, Church, academe, and the banking, medicine, and human rights sectors among others. It monitors abuses and advocates reform in the student military training program.

Poll fraud charge vs Mandaluyong mayor junked

REELECTIONIST Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos expressed gratification that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) had junked with finality his rival's allegations of poll fraud against him following the May 14 elections.

In an en banc resolution dated Aug. 13, 2001, the Comelec dropped for lack of merit the charges of massive vote buying and cheating against Abalos by his rival, Puwersa ng Masa candidate Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo Jr.

The Comelec also dismissed Domingo's call for special elections in the city.

"I am glad that the issue is finally put to rest and justice served," Abalos said. "A lot of pro-people concerns are needed to be addressed squarely. I am calling everyone to work in unity for the progress of the city."

The young mayor called on Domingo to "be man enough to accept defeat" and join the city government and its people in the march toward growth.

Ateneo alumni

THE ATENEO de Zamboanga University Metro Manila Alumni Association will hold its election of officers on Sept. 29 at the penthouse of the Archipelago Bldg. on North Avenue, Quezon City.

Incumbent Alumni Association President Paulino Pe said names of nominees must be submitted at least a week before election day.

For information, please contact Gaea Gaitos at 9269056 or (0917) 532-5071.

Frat members nabbed

POLICE arrested six members of a fraternity for possession of deadly weapons in Parañaque City.

Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque Chief of Police, identified the six as Lar Lungas, 18, a student; Ronnie Arcibal, 18; Freddie Hilario, 20; Ruperto Sierba Jr., 15, a student; Marion Balbes, 17; and Lucky Flores, 17.

All are residents of Bayabas and Macopa streets, Sampaloc Site, B.F. Homes, Parañaque City and members of the "Tama Saga" fraternity, police said.

The suspects were arrested about 3 a.m. Wednesday near the 7-Eleven convenience store in Evacom, Parañaque City after barangay *tanods* of San Dionisio, Parañaque City spotted the group acting suspiciously.

Police arrested the suspects and found on them homemade guns and assorted weapons commonly used during fraternity rumbles.

Seized

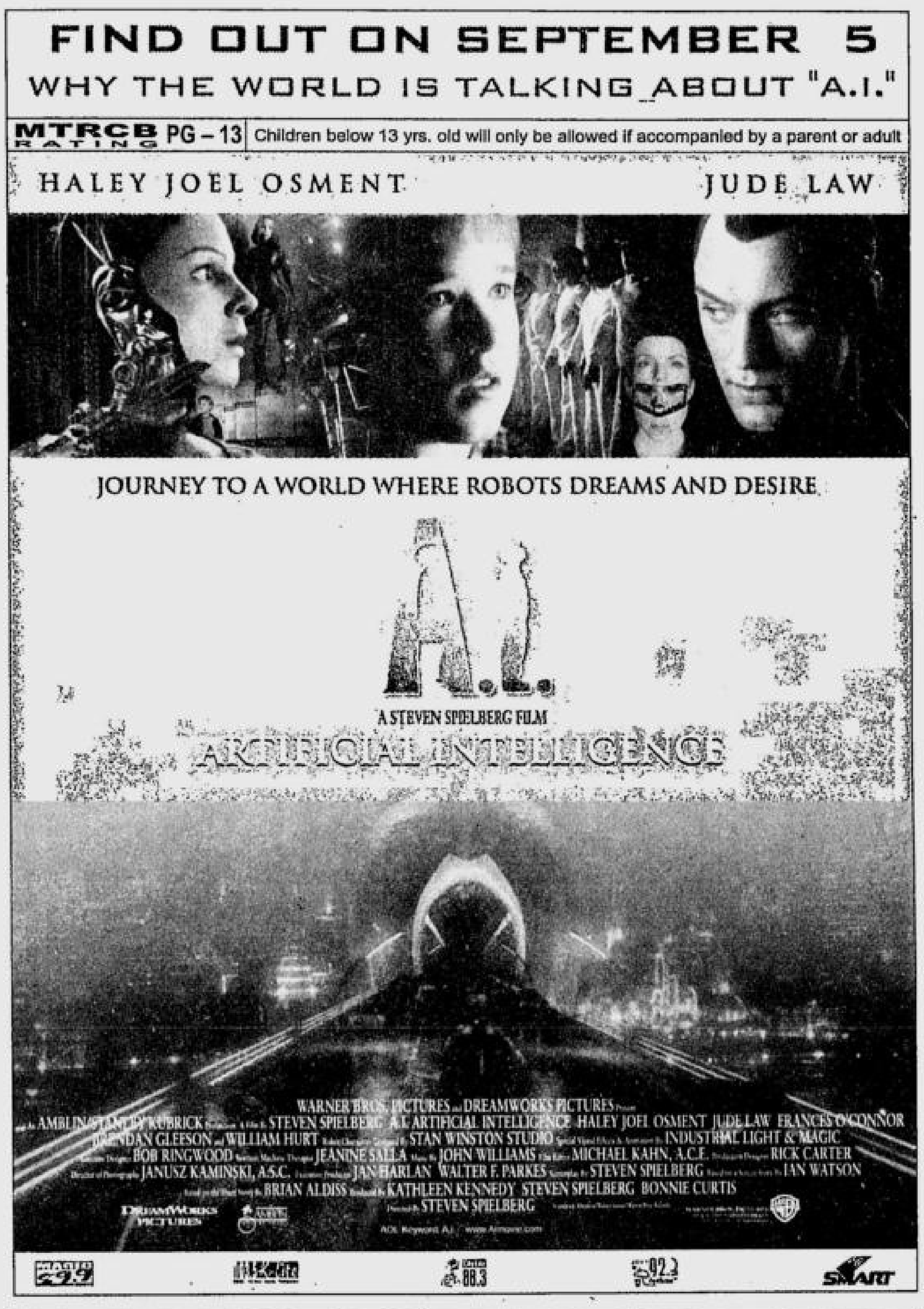
THE BUREAU of Customs has intercepted a 40-foot container van packed with banned used clothing imports estimated to be worth about P5 million at the Port of Manila.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva said on Wednesday that the shipment was misdeclared as "ready-to-wear" apparel and consigned to BC & W Enterprises at 214 Stockholm St., Pasig City.

The shipment of used clothing came from the United States and was loaded in a 40-foot container van aboard the vessel Zim Korean when intercepted by agents of the Intelligence and Enforcement Group at the South Harbor in Manila.

Under customs regulations, commercial importation of used clothing and rags is prohibited under customs regulations.

Gerald G. Lacuarta



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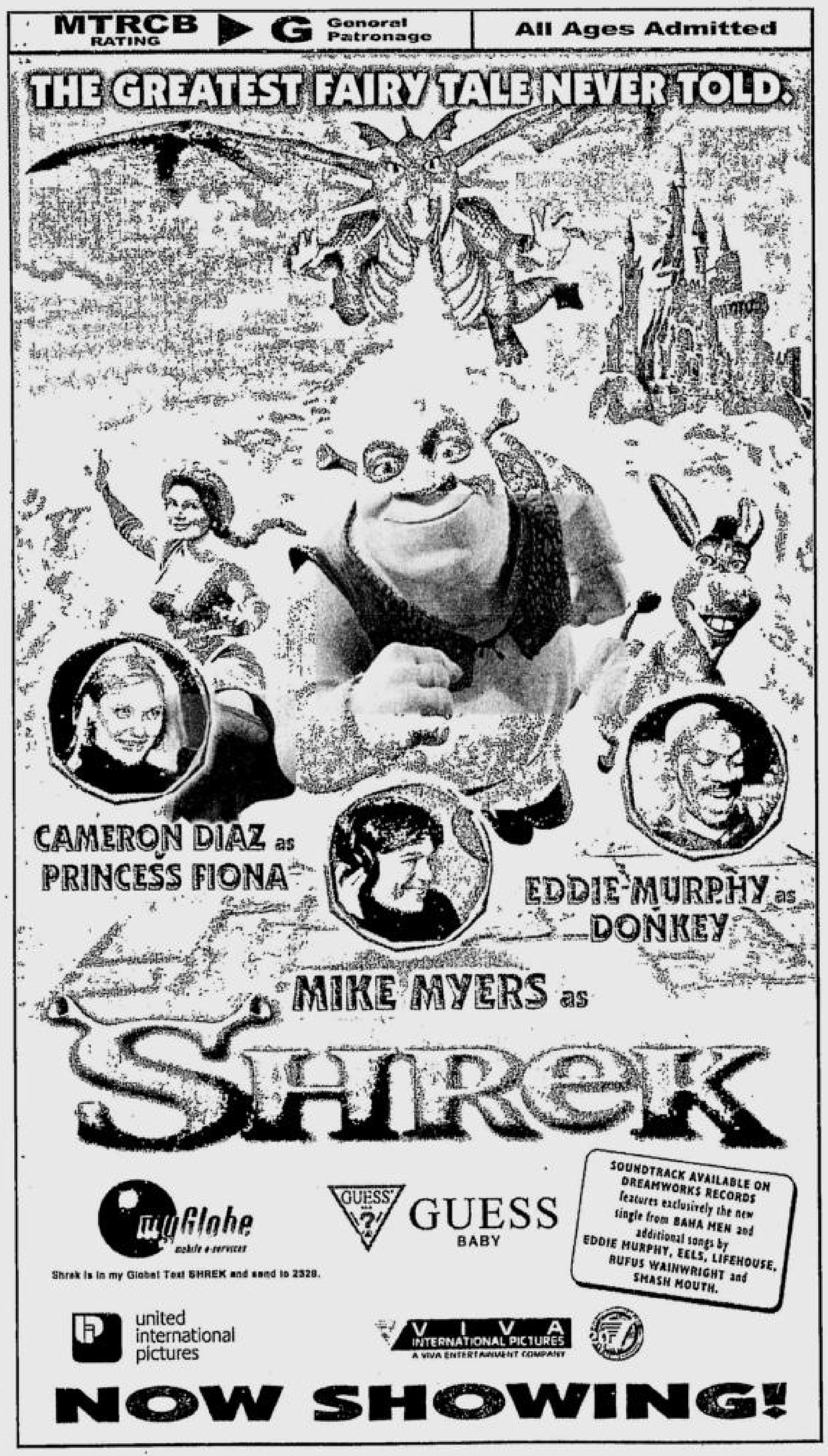
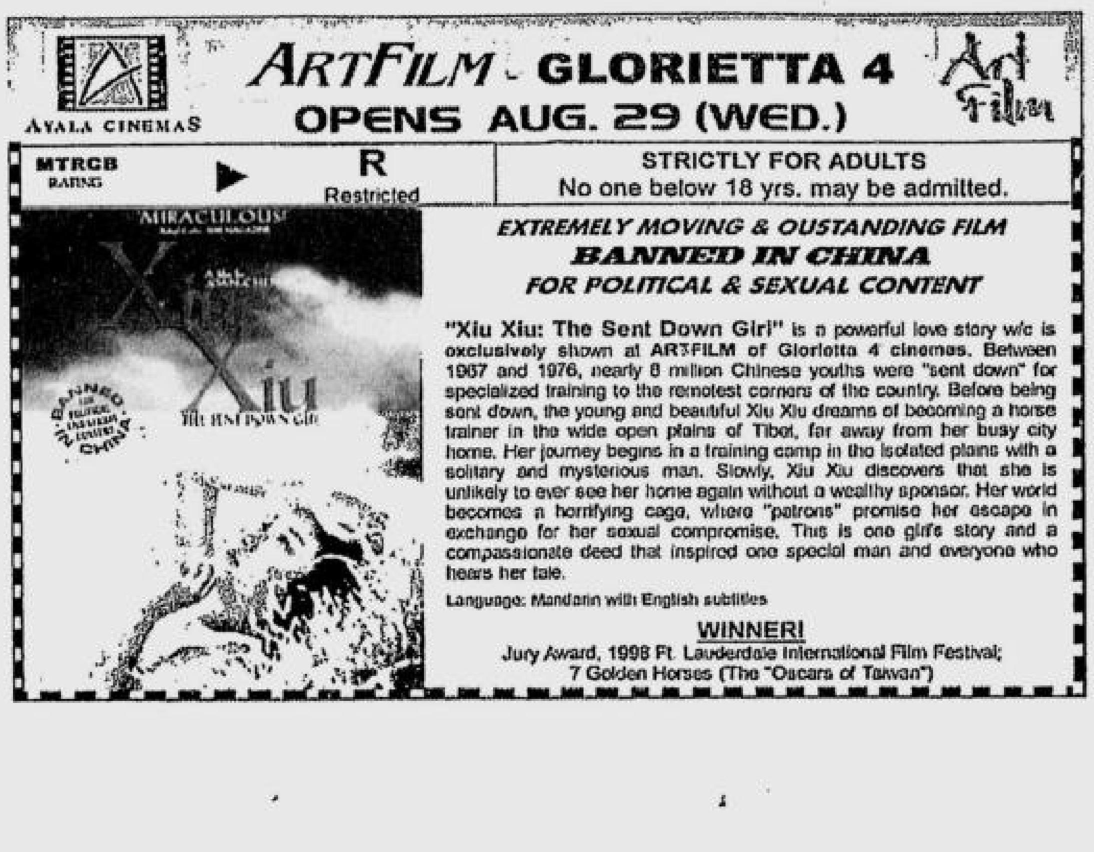
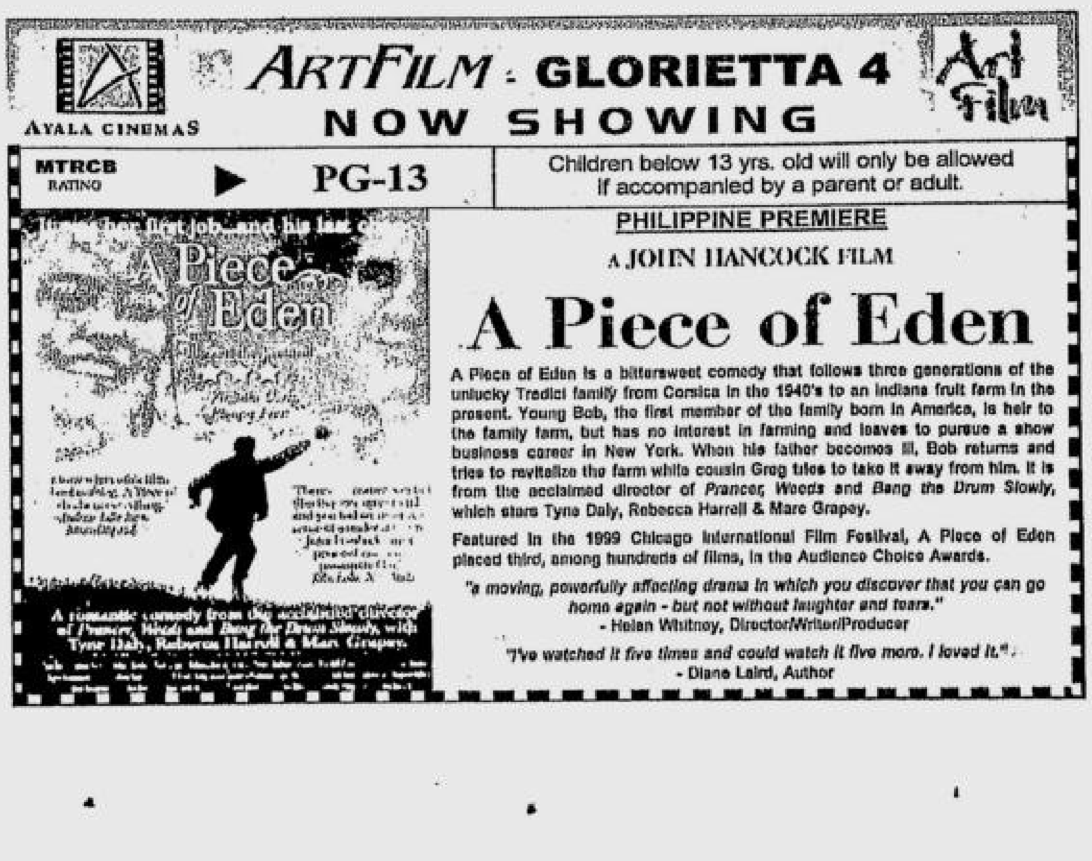


MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | All Ages Admitted
THE GREATEST FAIRY TALE NEVER TOLD.
CAMERON DIAZ as PRINCESS FIONA
EDDIE MURPHY as DONKEY
MIKE MYERS as
SHREK
myGlobe mobile e-services
Shrek is in my Globe! Text SHREK and send to 2320.
GUESS BABY
SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON DREAMWORKS RECORDS features exclusively the new single from BAHA MEN and additional songs by EDDIE MURPHY, EELS, LIFEHOUSE, RUFUS WAINWRIGHT and SMASH MOUTH.
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
NOW SHOWING!

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
NOW SHOWING
MIKE MYERS as SHREK
CAMERON DIAZ as PRINCESS FIONA
EDDIE MURPHY as DONKEY
SHREK
MTRCB Rating GP
@GALLERIA, ERMITA, IMUS & NOVA.
starting August 22, 2001



AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS AUG. 29 (WED.)
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
EXTREMELY MOVING & OUSTANDING FILM
BANNED IN CHINA
FOR POLITICAL & SEXUAL CONTENT
"Xiu Xiu: The Sent Down Girl" is a powerful love story w/c is exclusively shown at ARTFILM of Glorietta 4 cinemas. Between 1967 and 1976, nearly 8 million Chinese youths were "sent down" for specialized training to the remotest corners of the country. Before being sent down, the young and beautiful Xiu Xiu dreams of becoming a horse trainer in the wide open plains of Tibet, far away from her busy city home. Her journey begins in a training camp in the isolated plains with a solitary and mysterious man. Slowly, Xiu Xiu discovers that she is unlikely to ever see her home again without a wealthy sponsor. Her world becomes a horrifying cage, where "patrons" promise her escape in exchange for her sexual compromise. This is one girl's story and a compassionate deed that inspired one special man and everyone who hears her tale.
Language: Mandarin with English subtitles
WINNER!
Jury Award, 1998 Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival;
7 Golden Horses (The "Oscars of Taiwan")



AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
A JOHN HANCOCK FILM
A Piece of Eden
A Piece of Eden is a bittersweet comedy that follows three generations of the unlucky Tredici family from Corsica in the 1940's to an Indiana fruit farm in the present. Young Bob, the first member of the family born in America, is heir to the family farm, but has no interest in farming and leaves to pursue a show business career in New York. When his father becomes ill, Bob returns and tries to revitalize the farm while cousin Greg tries to take it away from him. It is from the acclaimed director of *Prancer, Weeds* and *Bang the Drum Slowly*, which stars Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.
Featured in the 1999 Chicago International Film Festival, A Piece of Eden placed third, among hundreds of films, in the Audience Choice Awards.
"a moving, powerfully affecting drama in which you discover that you can go home again - but not without laughter and tears."
- Helen Whitney, Director/Writer/Producer
"I've watched it five times and could watch it five more. I loved it."
- Diane Laird, Author

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Call 117: Fighting crime by the numbers

BY ALCUIN PAPA

ON July 21, Navotas policemen and members of a SWAT team foiled the attempted kidnapping of Vertiza Tan and rescued her unharmed after a brief chase and gunfight with the kidnappers barely 10 minutes after she was snatched in front of her house in Navotas.

On July 22, Taguig police negotiated for the safe release of a boy whose own father had taken him hostage.

On April 19, Caloocan police rescued two young girls from being raped by their stepfather.

These are just some of the dramatic police rescues brought about by Call 117, a telephone hotline that provides citizens and law enforcers a quick response system against crime.

"The program was conceived in line with the mandate of the Department of Interior and Local Government to promote peace and order and public safety and enhance the local government's capability to ensure effective delivery of services to the citizenry," said Secretary Joey Lina, chair of Call 117.

A la Rescue 911

Originally conceived in 1996 as a contribution of the business community to the national crime prevention program, Call 117 is modeled after Rescue 911 of the United States.

The organization of the program began as a partnership between the business sector and concerned nongovernment organizations involved in crime prevention. Together, they formed the Foundation for Crime Prevention (FCP).

"Security and development go hand in hand," Lina said. "The guiding principle of the program is that security and development is a collective responsibility of both government and civil society."

In September 1997, the National Telecommunications Commission approved the use of the telephone number 117 for use as an emergency hotline.

During this time, the 117 hotline, otherwise known as the Street Watch Program, was only limited to calls for assistance in cases of police emergencies.

Other kinds of emergencies like fires, medical emergencies and those involving calamities and disasters were not included since they were not directly related to crime prevention.

Institutionalized

On Feb. 22, 1998, the 117 Street Watch program was launched with limited scope and responded only to calls for police assistance. But the hotline's administrators noticed that calls for assistance involving fires and medical emergencies started to increase steadily since March 1998.

In 1998, the program was institutionalized under the DILG. Two years later, the interior and local government secretary was given the post as chair of the FCP.

Last March 16, the Street Watch program was re-launched and renamed Patrol, or People's Action Team Responding On-line. This time, the hotline was made ready to respond to other emergencies.

LINA

Other government agencies now included in the hotline are the DILG's Task Force Jericho, the Bureau of Fire Protection as well as service providers like the Manila Electric Co., the Maynilad and Manila Water companies and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"The advantage of the new 117 hotline is that one number can now handle different kinds of emergencies, whether fires, police related or otherwise," Lina said.

It's also easy to remember, he added.

Quick, effective

The underlying philosophy of the hotline's program is to deliver effective and swift police response against activities of criminal and lawless elements. The program also aims to make crime prevention a concern of citizens by encouraging them to report crimes to police.

Public safety is not just the sole responsibility of the police, according to Lina.

"The citizens should help," he said. "This is in line with the concept that the citizens should protect themselves. The police are there to assist. They cannot do the job alone. Everyone in the community should do his or her part in fighting crime. Attaining peace and order and public safety requires a concerted effort from everyone."

From its inception in 1999 to last year, the 117 emergency hotline, managed by the DILG, has received 22,344 calls and responded to 21,691.

This year, the 117 hotline has tallied 2,605 calls ranging from incidents like public disturbances, fires, drug use and trafficking, vehicular accidents and illegal gambling.

Seven minutes

While response time to the calls could be as long as 30 minutes, the average response time by police or fire units concerned could be as quick as seven minutes.

From April to July alone, 29 cases were successfully resolved after concerned citizens called 117.

At present, the hotline is already getting an average of 9,000 calls from all over the city. Sadly, only around 150 of these calls are legitimate and the rest are pranks.

According to Patrol program assistant Reinelda Raffinan, prank calls are reported immediately to police.

Raffinan warns the public from making prank calls since their system is equipped with caller identification.

"Prank callers are usually kids," she said. "We would advise the public to refrain from making these kinds of calls."

Raffinan revealed that 60 percent of the calls they receive are related to drug trafficking cases. These are immediately referred to the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Center (DEP Center) in Camp Crame.

Plans are afoot to expand the hotline's service. Aside from the existing 10 community phone booths installed in Metro Manila, about 500 additional lines will be set up.

With the crime rate ever on the rise in Metro Manila, Call 117 could be a lifesaver.

From fire to hostage-taking, snatching, robbery, kidnapping, rape, wife battery, murder or even just drunken neighbors, 117 is the number to call from a PLDT landline, pay phone or Smart cell phone.

It is also an assurance that help is now just a phone call away.

Gordon urges overseas Filipino workers to be 'tourism volunteers'

TOURISM Secretary Richard J. Gordon has vowed to turn some 150,000 Filipinos working in Singapore into "tourism volunteers" to draw visitors to the Philippines.

"We are asking each OFW to bring at least one foreign visitor to the Philippines each year so we can lift the dignity and livelihood of Filipinos back home," Gordon said in meetings with representatives of Filipino organizations in Singapore.

The department's Tourism Volunteer 12 (V-12) Program aims to mobilize the estimated 7.38 million OFWs worldwide.

"The overseas Filipino is the most natural and cost-effective resource that can be tapped in bringing tourists to the Philippines," Gordon said. "When a Filipino abroad commits to become a tourism volunteer, he gains power to change the course of Philippine tourism and economy."

Gordon estimates a sharp increase in tourist arrivals will generate more than US$7 million in income if each of the 7.38 million Filipinos abroad sends one tourist to the country each year.

The tourism chief launched the V-12 program during President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's state visit to Malaysia early this month.

The initial batch of tourism volunteers came from that country where 640,000 Filipinos are currently employed.

Two agencies have already begun organizing workers in Malaysia.

As mayor of Olongapo City and as chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Gordon successfully mobilized volunteers to help run the local government.

Gordon is optimistic his success in Subic and Olongapo will continue in Singapore and other parts of the world where Filipinos are actively employed.

"Who would help our country but us, Filipinos?" Gordon said. "The substitution of tourism as a support base for the economy, instead of the practice of sending OFWs to other countries, would make it unnecessary to travel abroad just to earn a decent living."

Last year, close to two million tourists visited the country, with each tourist spending US$1,056.75 for hotel use, taxi fare, meals in restaurants and the like.

Tourism revenues from increased tourist arrivals will redound to the economy, Gordon said.

JDV 'plants' Billion Trees

SAYING the destruction of Philippine forests has reached the level of a "national emergency," Speaker Jose de Venecia has launched the Billion Trees Movement as the start of a multi-agency effort to reforest denuded mountains from Luzon to Mindanao and "create a new generation" of Filipino entrepreneurs.

The Speaker said the one-billion trees program would cost an estimated P15 billion, less than one-half the cost of a major power-generating plant, but it would provide a long-term solution to the country's flooding and environmental problems and gradually stop all wood imports from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"I speak with a sense of crisis and of national emergency," De Venecia said, painting a distressing picture of the country's loss of much of its forest cover in eastern and western Mindanao, Cebu, Bicol, the Sierra Madre, Samar and Leyte, Zambales and Bataan, Cagayan Valley and the Ilocos provinces.

"We have failed to plant enough trees because politicians of years past have destroyed our mountains and forest," he said at the program launching the Balara Nursery at the Manila Water Co. compound in Quezon City.

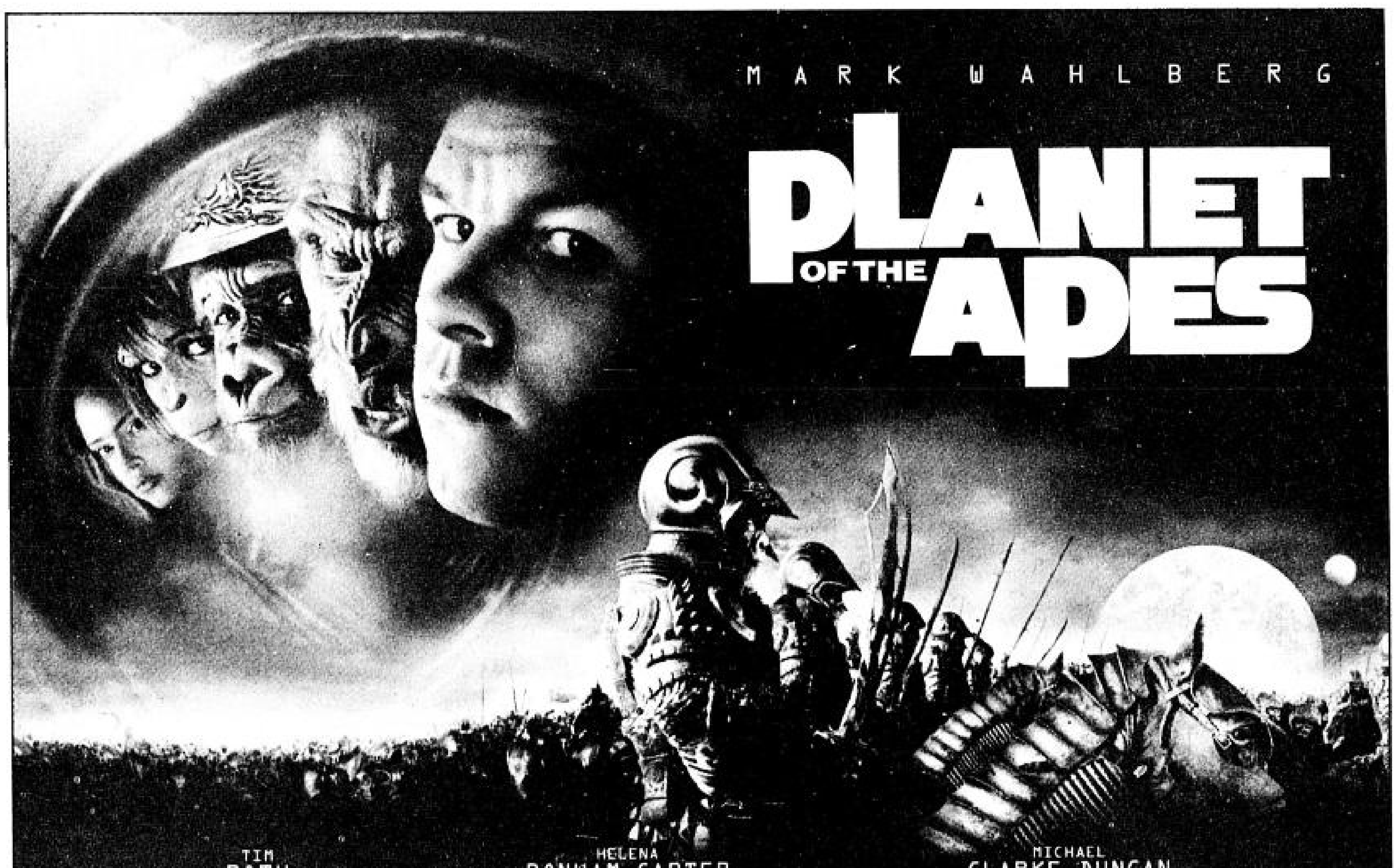
During the program, heads of 12 government agencies concerned with environmental preservation signed a memorandum of agreement outlining the foundation's tasks to ensure the program's sustainability and coordinate their efforts to replace the country's denuded forests.

De Venecia said he filed last week his One Billion Trees bill similar to the measure he filed in 1997 as a major component of his economic action plan, in which he envisioned a seven-percent growth over seven years starting in 2003 to turn the economy around and propel millions of poor Filipinos to the threshold of the middle class by 2010.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10	SHREK - GP 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20	SHREK - GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
SHREK - GP 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40	CRAZY BEAUTIFUL - P 13 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	PLANET OF HE APES - P 13 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri. 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



TIM ROTH HELENA BONHAM CARTER MICHAEL CLARKE DUNCAN
www.planetoftheapes.com
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
SECOND WEEK!
mossimo SMART
DISTRIBUTED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted

She'll do anything if she thinks you're watching
NOMOTO MIHO
Between innocence and evil lies the seduction
Sex MEDUSA
THE SEDUCTRESS
CARRY NG VINCENT WAN XU JIN JIANG LEUNG TANG
Directed By LOR WAI TAK

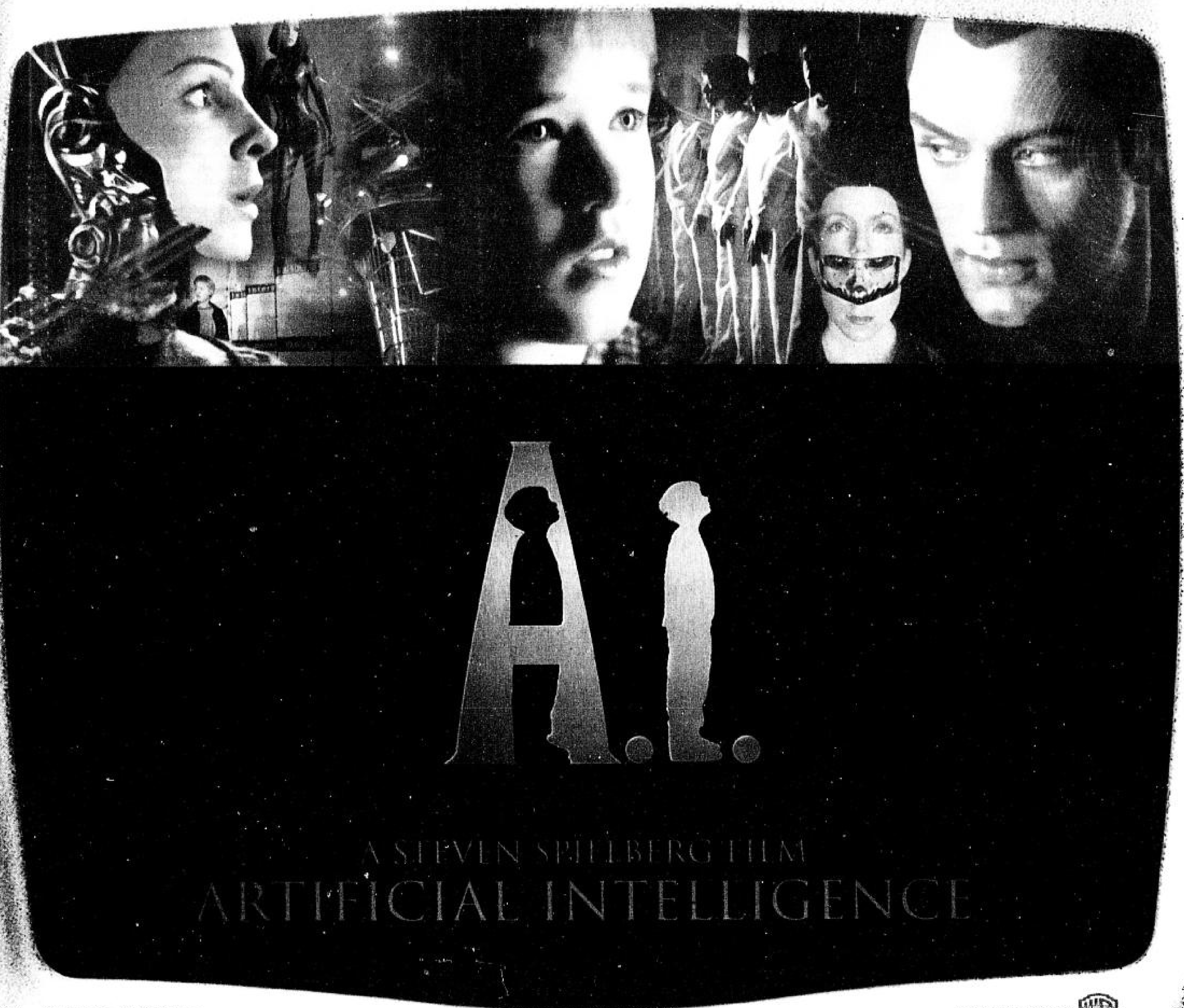
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
BREAK THE RULES

When it's real. When it's right.

Don•t let anything stand in your way.
KIRSTEN DUNST JAY HERNANDEZ
crazy/beautiful
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Journey to a world where robots dream and desire.

THE
SMART
Cinema Club



DREAMWORKS PICTURES

WARNER BROS. PICTURES
AN AOL TIME WARNER COMPANY
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AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT

Invite all your friends to join the club and you may win exclusive premiere tickets!

All club members can get àccess to all the official Artificial Intelligence animated screensavers, operator logos, group graphics, and picture messages.

Official Artificial Intelligence logos

teddy	Super toy	His Love is real	A.I.	artificial intelligence
AIBEAR1 (Operator Logo/Group Graphic)	AIBEAR (Picture Message/Screen Saver)	AITITLE2 (Operator Logo/Group Graphic)	AITITLE (Picture Message/Screen Saver)	AITEXT (Picture Message/Screen Saver)

To join the Smart Cinema Club, key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to 239. You will receive instructions for the next registration steps.
To invite friends to join, key in **INVITE** <your friends' numbers> and send to 239. You can invite up to 3 friends at one time.
To check # of points accumulated, type **I POINTS** and send to 239.
To receive more information on different commands, key in **HELP** <command> and send to 239.

To Get A.I....	Key In...
Logo List Of Keywords	LOGO AI and send to 239
Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP AI and send to 239
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture Messages List Of Keywords	PIC AI and send to 239
Picture Messages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen Savers List Of Keywords	SAVER AI and send to 239
Screen Savers**	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
To Get Movie Trivia Questions	PLAY MT and send to 239
To Answer Movie Trivia Questions	<number of your answer> and send to 239

*Available on selected Nokia handsets
**Available on Nokia 3310, 3330, and 8250

Make friends with a CHATBOT and explore artificial intelligence...
Simply text in any question to a **CHATBOT** and send to 287.
Ex: <What are you?> and send to 287.
You will then receive a reply from a **CHATBOT**.
Sample reply: "I am the latest result in artificial intelligence, which can reproduce the capabilities of the human brain with greater speed and accuracy."

Promo Mechanics:

1. All Smart Cinema Club members can win 2 tickets to the advance screening of Artificial Intelligence on Sept. 2, 8:00 p.m., at the Robinsons Galleria Movieworld by using the INVITE command to ask friends to join the club. The top 100 members with the hightest points will win free 2 A.I. premiere tickets each.
2. Winners will be determined through a computer generated program on August 29 at 10:00 a.m. Winners will be notified by text message and a call to their registered mobile number.
3. Winners can claim their tickets at the DDB Phils. office, 9/F Legaspi Suites, Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City from Aug. 29, 2 p.m. to Aug. 31, 10 p.m. Or at the Smart Cinema Club Booth at the Robinsons Galleria Cinema on the premiere night.
4. From Aug. 22 to 28, Smart Money cardholders who use their card to purchase 2 tickets of any movie showing at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria or Ermita will get 2 free A.I. premiere tickets. Winners can claim their tickets by calling the Smart Money Hotline at 845-7777.
5. Promo is for the Greater Metro Manila area only.

See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1295. Series of 2001.

All text messages sent will be charged ₱2.50 each.
Logos, graphics, and screensavers are ₱12.00 each.
For more info, call your Smart Customer Care Hotline at 888-1111 or *888 on your celfone.

Regular screening starts Sept. 5, 2001.

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Simply Amazing!

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SMART Money Use your Smart Money to buy 2 movie tickets from Aug. 22 to 28 and get 2 Artificial Intelligence premiere tickets – FREE!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1293. Series of 2001.

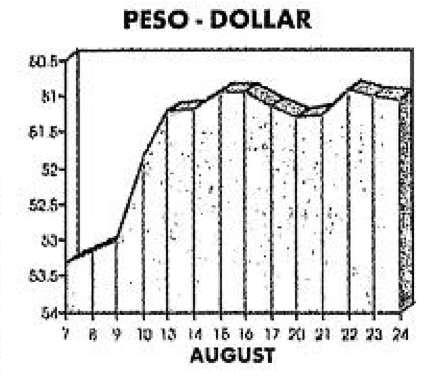
BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Malaysian firm agrees to sell NSC stake

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.05 = $1

As of 5 p.m., August 24, 2001

¥ 119.88 = $1

As of 5 p.m., August 24, 2001

GOLD:$275/275.50

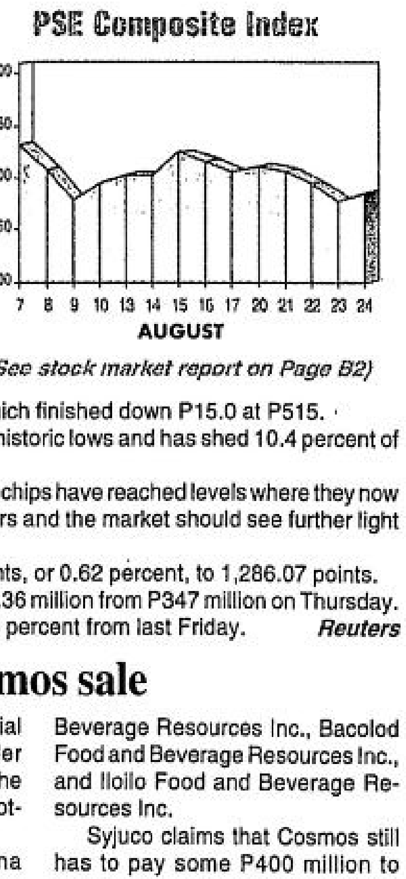
per ounce Hong Kong, August 24, 2001

Aug. 24, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.092657	1.000000	51.0140
Japan	Yen	0.009120	0.008347	0.4258
United Kingdom	Pound	1.581512	1.447400	73.8377
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140093	0.128213	6.5407
Switzerland	Franc	0.657792	0.602011	30.7110
Canada	Dollar	0.709656	0.649477	33.1324
Singapore	Dollar	0.622703	0.569898	29.0728
Australia	Dollar	0.582937	0.533504	27.2162
Bahrain	Dinar	2.898450	2.652661	135.3228
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.291352	0.266645	13.6026
Brunei	Dollar	0.621534	0.568828	29.0182
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000126	0.000115	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024505	0.022427	1.1441
UAE	Dirham	0.297564	0.272331	13.8927
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000785	0.0400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.915200	46.6880
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.467934	23.8712
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139521	7.1175
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.415300	21.1861
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066510	3.3929
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022687	1.1574
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000473	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153926	7.8524
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004565	0.2329
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.0055	0.2806
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.022687	1.1574
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.162064	59.2815

STOCK MARKET

Shares up



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE STOCK market yesterday snapped a three-day losing streak, with the main index holding above key support of 1,270 points on the back of technical buying activity in some selected large caps, traders said.

However the upside was limited by a further slide in market large cap, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. which finished down P15.0 at P515.

The stock is now trading near historic lows and has shed 10.4 percent of its value since Aug. 9.

Traders said most leading blue chips have reached levels where they now offer attractive valuations to buyers and the market should see further light upside next week.

The main index rose 7.93 points, or 0.62 percent, to 1,286.07 points.

Turnover rose slightly to P360.36 million from P347 million on Thursday.

The main index was down 1.5 percent from last Friday. *Reuters*

Court blocks Cosmos sale

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court issued yesterday an order stopping the P15-billion sale of the Concepcion family's Cosmos Bottling Corp. to San Miguel Corp.

Quezon City Judge Monina Zenarosa said "there are strong reasons to believe" that the sale "would work injustice to the plaintiffs during the pendency of this case and would tend to render any judgement herein nugatory."

The court's order takes effect for 72 hours.

Zenarosa ruled on a motion filed by Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco Jr. in behalf of 10 soft drink companies acquired by Cosmos in 1996 for P1.17 billion.

Syjuco asked the court to stop a P15-billion deal that allowed San Miguel, the country's biggest food and beverage company, to acquire No. 3 Cosmos.

He also asked the court to rescind a 1996 agreement that gave Cosmos a number of bottling operations in the Visayas.

On Nov. 8, 1996, Cosmos bought Jaz Cola Philippines Inc., Jaz Cola Cebu Inc., Jaz Cola Bacolod Inc., Jaz Cola Iloilo Inc., Pacific Food and Beverage Resources Inc., Bacolod Food and Beverage Resources Inc., and Iloilo Food and Beverage Resources Inc.

Syjuco claims that Cosmos still has to pay some P400 million to complete its acquisition of the Jaz Cola group.

He said the P1.17 billion Cosmos paid to acquire the Jaz Cola companies "is not the total consideration of the sale. This is merely a part of the acquisition cost."

Cosmos owner RFM Corp. has tagged Syjuco's petition as a "nuisance suit."

"This is nothing more than a nuisance suit. Mr. Syjuco has been fully paid five years ago and we have all the documents, and even the acknowledgment of his own counsel at that time," RFM counsel Cristina Reyes said in a statement issued on Thursday.

Reyes stressed that there were existing records that Cosmos had given full payment to Syjuco and had likewise settled other obligations left behind, including bills for raw materials, resins, bottles, spare parts, advertising materials, truck leases and all taxes due on the transaction.

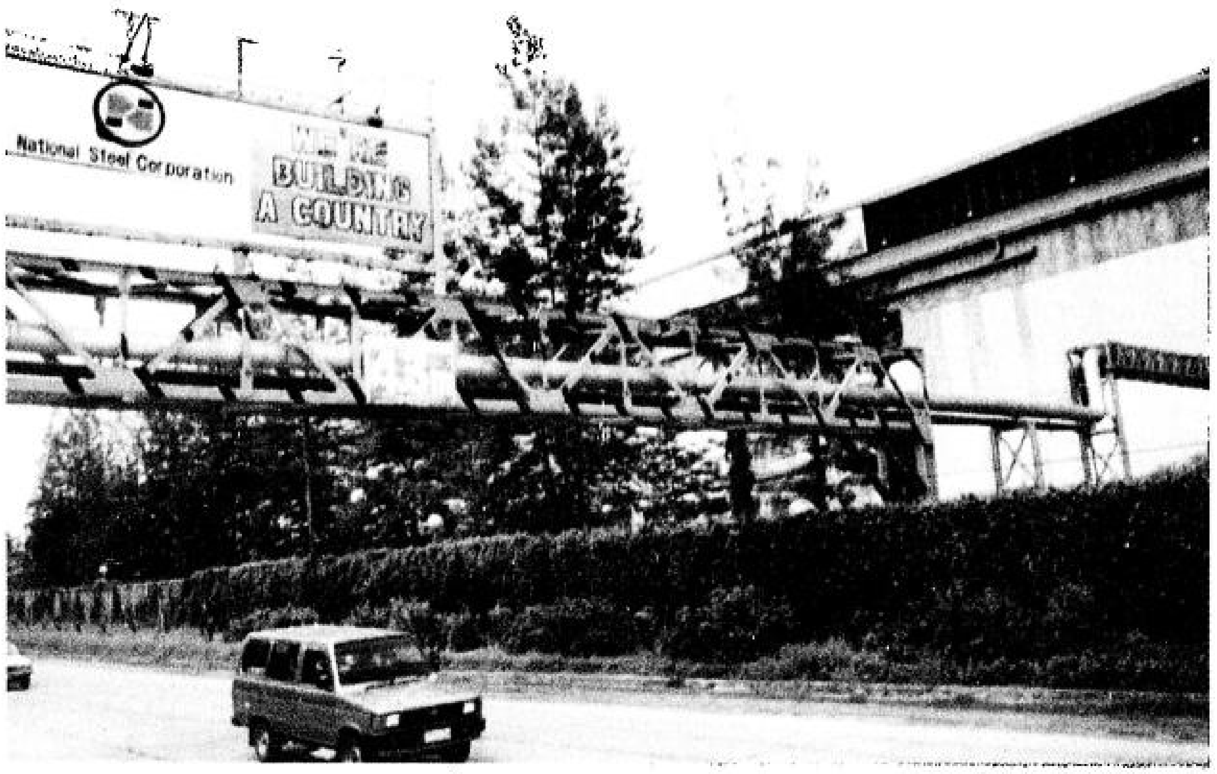
Sun Life unit raises capital

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved on Thursday the application of Sun Life of Canada Prosperity Bond Fund Inc. to register additional P500 million in capital stock to be offered to the public.

The fund is an open-end investment company engaged in the sale of its shares of stock, the proceeds of which are invested in fixed income securities. It was designed to provide regular income and principal preservation through investments in government and high quality corporate debt securities with below average risk.

Sun Life Asset Management Co. Inc. serves as the fund's manager, adviser, distributor and provider of all required operational services. Prior to the capital increase, the fund had a capital stock of P700 million.

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.



PROSPECTS brighten for Iligan-based steel firm

MALAYSIA'S debt rehabilitation agency Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd. has reportedly agreed to the joint sale of its 80-percent stake in National Steel Corp. with that held by the Philippine government even if it would mean taking a big loss from its investments.

A government source said this was a major breakthrough in the ongoing efforts to attract a long-term investor to take over NSC and take charge in reviving the operations of the steel giant. NSC has been mothballed since November 1999 due to its inability to pay P16 billion in debts.

The source said the reported agreement by Danaharta was reached during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Malaysia early this month.

NSC has remained shuttered for 20 months due to a dispute between Danaharta and the creditor banks of NSC led by the Philippine National Bank over the liquidation of the firm's assets.

Danaharta took a hard-line stance in the negotiations by declaring that it would only agree to sell its stake in NSC if it would recover all of its investments in the company.

The creditor banks found NSC's demand unacceptable because it was inevitable for all parties involved—from the Malaysians to the firms' creditors—to take a hit with the sale of the firm's assets. The dispute is the subject of a pending corporate case at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Danaharta took over the 3 billion ringgit loan of Hong Kong's Hottick Investments Co. from Malayan Banking, RHB Bank, Bank Bumiputra and Commerce Assetholding Bhd.

Hottick, which is controlled by Malaysia's Renong Bhd, took control of NSC when it bailed out in 1997 the Westmont group, the Malaysian investors that won in the bidding for the privatization of NSC.

The Macapagal administration has successfully obtained the approval of NSC's Malaysian investors and local creditor banks to sit down and review proposals for the temporary re-opening of NSC's Iligan steel factory pending the entry of a white knight that will undertake the long-term rehabilitation of the country's biggest steelmaker.

In case the Malaysian government and local creditor banks still fail to reach a common ground on the reopening of NSC, the government would step in and make the final decision. Both parties have agreed to abide by whatever the government decides and both have promised not to bring the case to court.

List of forex speculators readied

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said it was finalizing a list of money-changing companies, mostly affiliated with banks, found to have speculated against the peso and violated foreign exchange policies last year when the currency fell by as much as 19 percent.

These companies are facing fines of as much as P20 million, BSP sources said.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes refused to name the erring companies saying the list was still being finalized for presentation to and approval by the Monetary Board.

Reyes, who heads the BSP's supervision and examination department, admitted that the BSP had investigated more than 20 money-changing companies and some were found to have violated foreign currency regulations last year.

A central bank official who requested anonymity said one particular money-changer might be slapped a P20-million penalty. The BSP imposes a maximum penalty of P30,000 per violation. At this rate, this particular company could have violated foreign exchange rules by 660 times, the official said. He, however, refused to name the company.

Between June and July this year, the peso fell to levels close to the lowest hit in October last year but not a single money-changing firm was found to have engaged in foreign currency speculations. Instead, the BSP accused nine foreign and local banks of violating foreign exchange policies that led to the peso depreciation.

Of the nine banks penalized by the BSP early this month, Banco de Oro was slapped the biggest fine of P3.21 million for violating the P10,000 limit on undocumented dollar transactions for 107 times.

Export and Industry Bank, which has just acquired Urban Bank's 28 branches, was slapped a fine of P720,000 for each of the 24 times that it sold dollars to an importer without the required documents.

Citibank was hit by a P180,000 fine for selling six forward contracts to a foreigner without the approval of the central bank. It was also slapped with a P30,000 fine for selling dollars without proper documents.

Another foreign bank, HSBC, paid a P90,000 fine for deficient documentation of its foreign exchange transactions.

Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI, UCPB, China Banking Corp. and Standard Chartered were fined P30,000 each.

Reyes said the money-changing companies were asked to justify their transactions and these were later evaluated to determine whether the justifications were acceptable.

Smart, Globe to review text-cut plan

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

FACED with growing public outrage, two of the country's biggest mobile phone firms agreed yesterday to review their plan to offer fewer free "text messages" to their subscribers.

"They can't afford to antagonize the very people who make them exist," National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio told reporters after a closed-door meeting with officials of Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

He said Smart and Globe promised to review their plan to cut by three-fourths the number of free text messages they were offering their subscribers, but the NTC left the final decision to the two mobile phone giants.

"We left it up to them, but we suggested something halfway. They promised to review their proposal and come up with something concrete before the implementation of their announcement," Rio said.

In an interview prior to his meeting with Smart and Globe, Rio told the INQUIRER that a compromise or "halfway" measure could be a less drastic text-cut plan.

"It's like giving free cigarettes to a chain smoker for a very long time, and then taking away that free supply just like that," he said.

Rio warned Smart and Globe, however, that the NTC would hold public hearings should consumers continue to clamor for a more reasonable plan from them.

"We'll think about the public's complaints. The hope of the group is to have a win-win situation. We clarified our position and the commissioner heard our side, too," Globe senior vice president Rodolfo Salalima said in an interview.

SMART/ B2

HANGGANG FRIENDS NA LANG BA KAYO NG CRUSH MO?
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Here's how!
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Simply type FLAMES <your name> <crush's name>*

288 Send
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And wait for the response.

*You can type in either nickname (Marvin) or full name (MarvinAgustin), but don't include spaces.

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Not budget an inch

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ITS budget for 2002, according to this cute administration, is rather tight. I should only hope so. The government seems so broke that poverty can declare war on it. And win!

The big problem in the budget, according to some congressmen who happen to be in the opposition, is this little thing called money. Just how do we finance it?

This early, therefore, the Palace worries that the House of Representatives will use on the 2002 budget their sharp scissors. And the Palace will not budge an inch.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin is insisting that she has pruned the budget to the minimum. Actually, government offices asked for a total of more than P1 trillion.

That's not a typo; it's really a "t"—with 12 zeros! So even without her fighting with senators, who just waste our money in politics, Boncodin cut it to only P780 billion.

Well and good! Still, congressmen are in the dark about the funding. How can Malacañang cover its "tight" budget without even an inch of new tax measure?

* * *

IN another front, in a tax-related case, the government was even waylaid by the Sandiganbayan. The court dismissed the case over the multibillion-peso tax credit scam.

As I said, tax credits became a big-time racket in Kuya Eddie's time. It was so easy to get tax credits then that they became a business in themselves.

About one and a half years ago, the Sandiganbayan told the Ombudsman to reinvestigate the case. Nothing, of course, has happened since.

Included in the Ombudsman's wholesale case were companies owned by a certain Faustino Chingkoe, who became famous in Binondo for tax credits.

Those companies of his became so good in arranging for tax credits that they got certificates from the Department of Finance although they already closed down.

Anyway, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto was mad at the Sandiganbayan for dismissing the case wholesale. Even if your boys botched the job, boss?

Nobody can say whether they did it purposely or not, but Desierto would not even try to find out. Ah, *basta*, the Sandiganbayan should not dismiss the case.

He said that if his boys were remiss in their duties, the Sandiganbayan should have reprimanded them instead. Hmm. Isn't that supposed to be his job?

* * *

ANYWAY, Rep. Jesli Lapus has another take on the 2002 budget. Aside from the absent revenue measures, he worries that it has more of the so-called automatic appropriation.

For the sake of Boncodin's best friends in the Senate, "automatic appropriation" does not have anything to do with high-powered guns or anything like that.

It has more to do with debts. Under the budget, debt service gets the funding, whether congressmen like it or not, automatically. Wa say, in short!

This year, automatic appropriation amounts to about P204 billion, as against the general appropriation of P536 billion.

Looked at in another way, we can say that for every P1 in the budget, roughly 28 centavos go to debt service and the like.

For 2002, the automatic appropriation makes a big jump to P360 billion. Suffering of course is the general appropriation, which is literally pruned to P420 billion.

Guess what, for every peso in the budget next year, this cute administration has to set aside 46 centavos for debt payments and such.

And to think it's even called a "poverty alleviation" budget. I don't really know what to make of it, but it looks to me like aiming an "automatic" at our head. Bang! We're dead!

* * *

AS they threatened, led by Rep. Augusto Syjuco, the owners of 10 soft-drink companies in the Visayas filed a case in court to stop the P15-billion sale of Cosmos to San Miguel.

Syjuco headed the group of businessmen who, in 1996, sold their holdings in 10 soft-drinks companies to Cosmos, which was owned by the Concepcion family's RFM.

Cosmos paid P1.2 billion for the 10 firms, including the bottlers of the famous Jaz Cola. But Syjuco's group alleged such an amount was not the end of it.

"This is merely part of the acquisition cost" was how the group described the deal between them and the Concepcions of Cosmos.

Other reports nevertheless said that RFM claimed it even overpaid for the 10 companies. And so what is this Syjuco talking about?

Well, he told the court that Cosmos violated the terms of the sale of those 10 companies, such as lease payments, reimbursement for truck leases and the like.

Syjuco also claimed that Cosmos had yet to take care of the separation pay of the Manila liaison office of a couple of those companies.

Finally, the case talked about—of all things—taxes! Syjuco alleged that the terms obligated Cosmos to pay for all taxes arising from the sale.

"There are strong indications that the defendants evaded the payment of the correct taxes due to the government by about P260 million." I say it's not peanuts.

Sinophil gives up 40% stake in Legend

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

SINOPHIL Corp., the investment holding unit of Belle Corp., has given up its 40-percent stake in bleeding hotel and casino operator Legend International Resorts Ltd.

In a disclosure yesterday, Sinophil said it revoked a P5.4-billion share-swap deal it signed with Legend's Malaysian owners in 1998.

By taking Legend off its books, Sinophil will get rid of a financial drain, but it will become an inactive holding company without any asset.

Analysts say that Sinophil may now be "groomed" as a backdoor-listing vehicle for a new business.

Sinophil and Belle have entered into a deal with Legend and its Malaysian owners, Metroplex Bhd. and Paxell Investments Ltd., rescinding their share-swap agreement, Sinophil and Belle lawyer Bayani Tan said.

The 1998 share-swap deal allowed Metroplex and Paxell to acquire a 34-percent stake in Sinophil in exchange for a 40-percent stake in Legend and diluted Belle's stake in Sinophil to 33 percent.

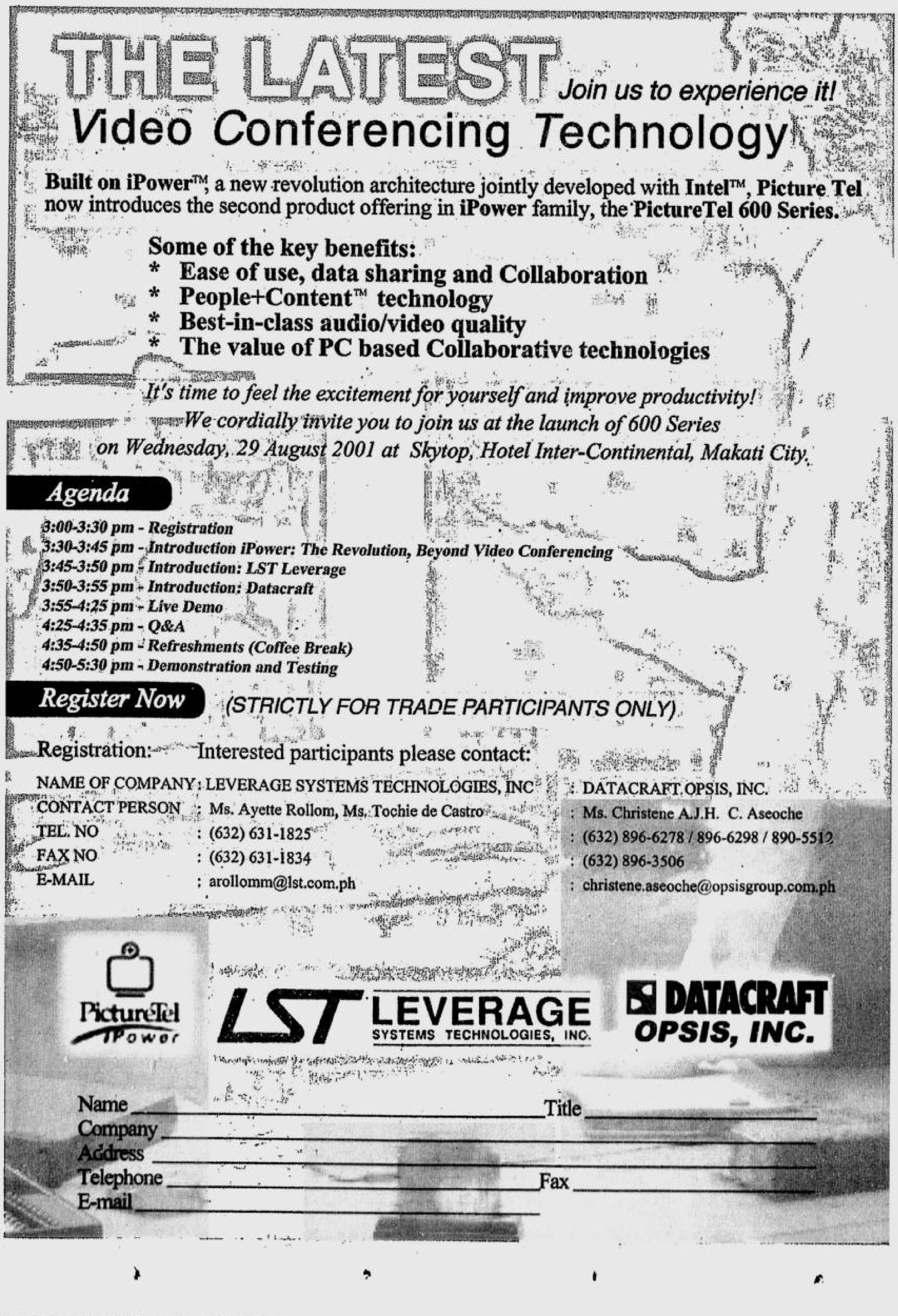
Sinophil issued 2.42 billion shares to Metroplex and 1.45 billion shares to Paxell in exchange for 46.38 million shares in Legend, which operates Legenda Hotel, Grand Seasons Hotel and Legenda Suites in Subic Bay.

In an interview, Belle chief financial officer Manuel Gana said Belle would now be able to regain majority control of Sinophil.

Gana said Legend was the last of Sinophil's investments, explaining that all other investments were divested earlier.

"At least it won't lose money anymore," Gana said. Asked what Belle planned to do with an inactive Sinophil, Gana said there were no firm plans yet but confirmed that one option was to use it as a listing vehicle.

He said Legend had been a financial drag for Sinophil. The company lost P321 million last year and P635 million in 1999.



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Agenda

3:00-3:30 pm - Registration
3:30-3:45 pm - Introduction iPower: The Revolution, Beyond Video Conferencing
3:45-3:50 pm - Introduction: LST Leverage
3:50-3:55 pm - Introduction: Datacraft
3:55-4:25 pm - Live Demo
4:25-4:35 pm - Q&A
4:35-4:50 pm - Refreshments (Coffee Break)
4:50-5:30 pm - Demonstration and Testing

Register Now (STRICTLY FOR TRADE PARTICIPANTS ONLY)

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NAME OF COMPANY	: LEVERAGE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES, INC	: DATACRAFT OPSIS, INC.
CONTACT PERSON	: Ms. Ayette Rollom, Ms. Tochie de Castro	: Ms. Christene A.J.H. C. Aseoche
TEL. NO	: (632) 631-1825	: (632) 896-6278 / 896-6298 / 890-5512
FAX NO	: (632) 631-1834	: (632) 896-3506
E-MAIL	: arollomm@lst.com.ph	: christene.aseoche@opsisgroup.com.ph

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, August 24, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	40,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63.5	63	63.5	81,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	33	32.5	33	10,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	197	198	196	198	206,600
Philippine National Bank	51	51.5	51	51.5	378,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	2,300
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	5,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	24	24	30,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	42,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	244	244	244	244	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1500	1505	1500	1505	2,480
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1205	1210	1205	1210	2,520
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	3,700
Diversified Fin. Network	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	4,340,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	650	615	650	470
Piltel	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	535	515	515	53,650
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.032	0.033	173,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32	32	32	32	24,400
Manila Electric Co. B	43	43.5	43	43.5	1,054,900
Petron Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	165,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	410,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	150,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATEDPRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	600,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	59,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	147,900
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	3,200
RFM Corp.	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	616,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41.5	40.5	41	46,900
San Miguel Corp. B	55	56	55	56	132,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.4	2,036,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	1,114,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.91	0.88	0.88	130,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	750,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	67,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	11	10.25	11	8,100
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	1,050,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	250,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	50,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30.5	30.5	29.5	29.5	189,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.26	3,360,000
Ionics Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,189,900
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	121,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	3,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	2,800,000
Medco Holdings	0.1	0.16	0.1	0.16	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.68	1,350,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	540,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	50,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	40,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.34	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.29	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	540,000
Music Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	166,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	140,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	2,950,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	980,000
Manila Jockey Club	18	18	18	18	5,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.21	220,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	1,567,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35	35	34.5	34.5	538,000
DMCI Holdings, Inc- Pref.	510	510	510	510	200
Equitable Pci Bank-War	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1,000
Globe Tel. A - Warrants	465	465	465	465	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	225,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.75	4.9	4.7	4.85	14,034,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	250,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	31,060,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	210,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	8,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.94	1,337,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	100,000
City & Land Developers	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	2,510,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	1,731,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	51,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.044	5,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	20,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,100,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	110,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	11,900,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	8,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,300,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000

Globe, Nextel given 10 days to work out deal

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has given Globe Telecom Inc. and Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. another 10 days to settle their interconnection problems.

"Interconnection is a government mandate. It is for consumers and not for any two companies," NTC chief Eliseo Rio said in a last-ditch effort yesterday to force Globe and Nextel to interconnect.

Globe and Nextel failed to reach an agreement over their respective rates within the period given to them by the NTC.

Nextel insisted that Globe adopt the rates contained in its interconnection agreement with Smart, but Globe refused.

In the Nextel-Smart agreement, both parties agreed to pay each other P3 a minute for calls made from Smart cellular phones to Nextel handsets.

Globe wants a P6.50-P2 arrangement, with Nextel paying the higher fee.

Globe argues that Nextel is not a cellular service provider, so it is not entitled to reciprocal compensation like the one existing between Globe and Smart, which are both cellular mobile telephone system operators.

"If they want to be treated as a CMTS, they should roll out 400,000 landlines," Globe assistant vice president Froilan Castelo said in an earlier interview.

Nextel said, however, this was not a fair argument.

"We never claimed to be a CMTS because we're a trunk radio (operator). They can't use the landline obligation as a reason," Nextel legal division officer Rey Fetalvero said.

Smart, Globe . . .

(From page B1)

Rio then stressed that the NTC was there mainly to protect consumers' rights rather than just the interests of industry players.

"They better take care of their customers. The point of view of the NTC is that they're not taking care of their customers," he told reporters.

The public is not asking Smart and Globe to keep things as they are, but merely to reconsider their plan, Rio said.

"Their subscribers are not really asking for a status quo or a reversal of their announcement because they wouldn't want the companies to go out of business," he said.

Globe will cut effective Sept. 10 the number of free text messages that their subscribers can send from 150 to 50 for those using prepaid cards.

Smart is slashing its free text messages to 33, 83 and 250 from its existing 100-, 250- and 750-allocation.

The public outrage from Smart's and Globe's text-cut plan comes largely from the fact that these two companies have posted huge gains over the past months.

While heavily indebted telecommunications companies performed poorly, market leaders such as Globe and Smart continued to see subscriber growth. Both have become main revenue drivers for their parents.

Smart is a unit of the country's largest telecommunications firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe is a joint venture between Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecoms.

PLDT's first-half net income rose sharply to P1.37 billion from P122.5 million. Smart's revenue for the period was at P10.5 billion, out of PLDT's total revenue at P36.72 billion.

Globe's net income in the period surged to P2.55 billion from P620.76 million and its revenues grew to P15.45 billion against P8.37 billion.

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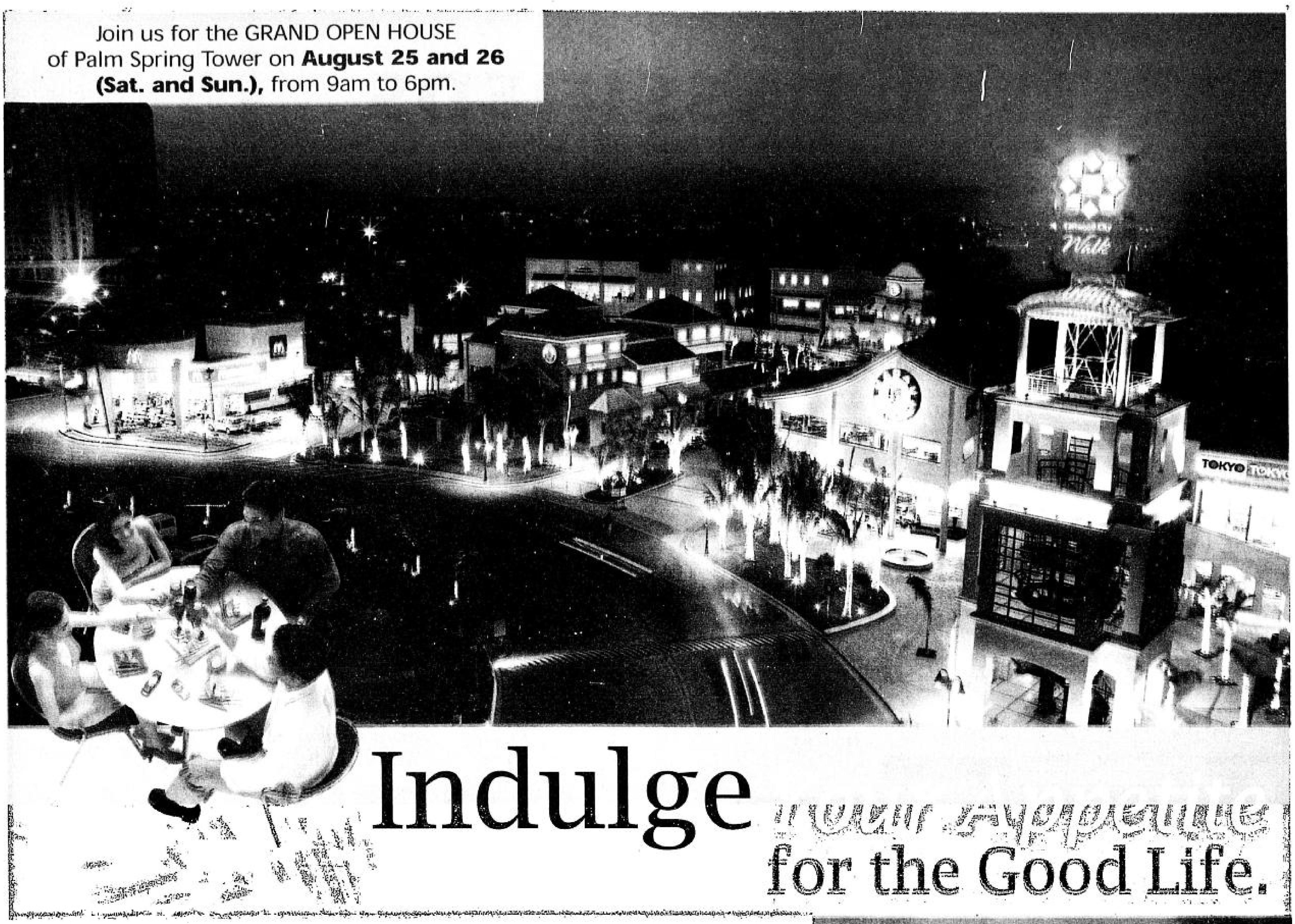
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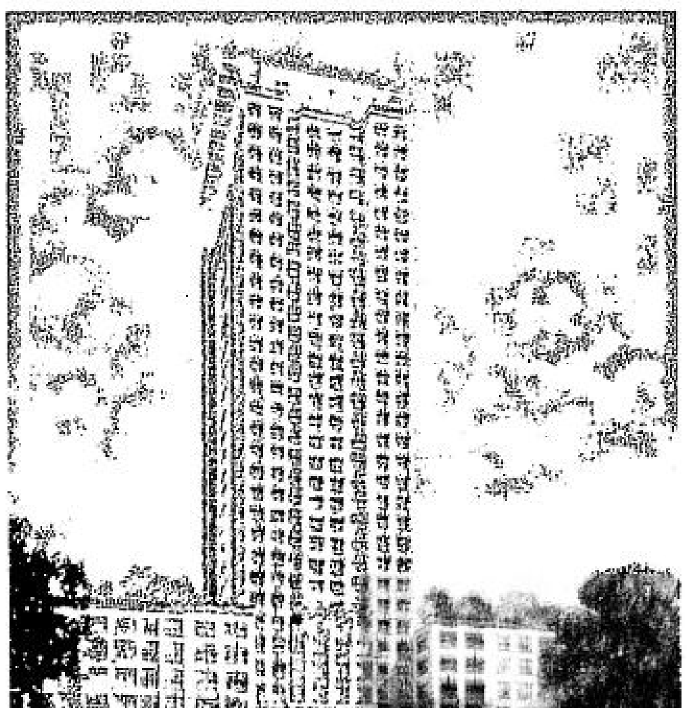

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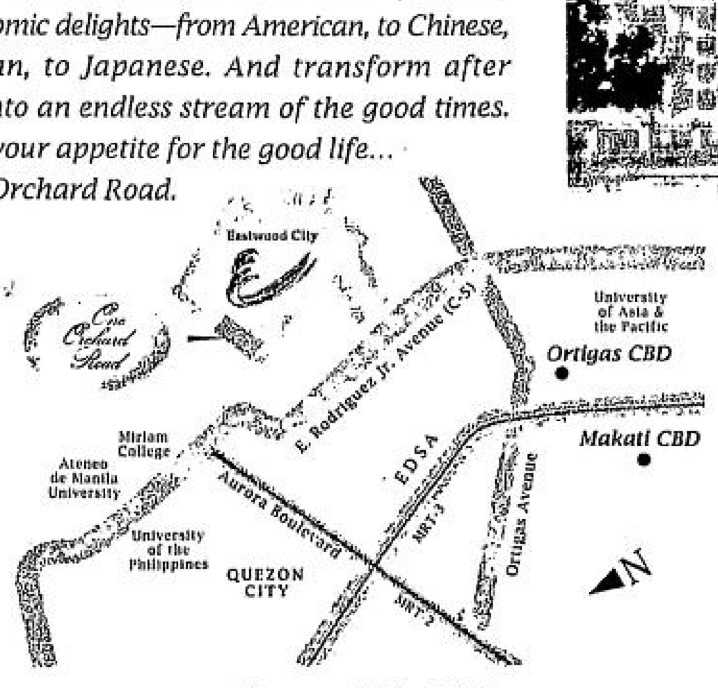
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QUEZON CITY

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MAKATI

MAKATI ZOBEL ROXAS
BNew/4sty/3BR/3TB/grge
P3.050M up 8903461 loc 34

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **MA. VICTORIA P. LEDESMA** located at Pasig City has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc.#7213; Page 9; Book 23; Series of 2000 of Notary Public Danilo Banares of Makati City.
(PDI-Aug. 11, 18 & 25, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of **ACR#3-04579671 & ICR#35836 of Mr. Kao Teng Ko.** If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 18 & 25, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested/prospective bidders/ suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply, delivery and installation for the Upgrading of PABX Integral 33xE W2 Module Telephone System for the Metrostar Express.

Issuance of accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., **September 12, 2001.**

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-MRT 3 reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids proposals without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MARIO C. MIRANDA
Acting General Manager
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- Aug. 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. 711-95-02/03, 743-83-01 loc. 1125, 1126

Invitation for Bids

Social Expenditure Management Project II
Department of Health, Philippines

Supply and Delivery of Oral Contraceptives
IFB No. WB-SEMP2-2001-003

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 564 of **August 16, 2001.**
2. The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Social Expenditure Management Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
3. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of Oral Contraceptives.

Items	Unit	Quantity
Oral Contraceptives	cycles	7,000,000

4. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

   Procurement and Logistics Service
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
   Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
   Telefax No. (632) 711-6712
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000) or US$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below before 2:00 p.m. on **October 19, 2001**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 2:00 p.m. on **September 28, 2001.**

   Multi-Media Conference Room
   Bldg.#18, Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above at 2:01 p.m. of **October 19, 2001.**

By the authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 25, 26 & Sept. 2, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. 711-95-02/03, 743-83-01 loc. 1125, 1126

Invitation for Bids

Social Expenditure Management Project II
Department of Health, Philippines

Supply and Delivery of TB Laboratory Supplies
IFB No. WB-SEMP2-2001-002

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 564 of **August 16, 2001**.
2. The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Social Expenditure Management Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
3. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of TB Laboratory Supplies.

Items	Unit	Quantity
1. TB Staining Kit	kit	12,000 kits
2. Microscopic Immersion Oil	bottle	14,000 bottles
3. Glass Slides	box of 72 pcs.	50,000 boxes
4. Sputum Cups	pieces	3,000,000 pieces

4. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
   Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
   Telefax No. (632) 711-6712
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000) or US$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below before 2:00 p.m. on **October 19, 2001.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 9:00 a.m. on **September 28, 2001**.

   Multi-Media Conference Room
   Bldg.#18, Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above at 9:01 a.m. of **October 19, 2001**.

By the authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 25, 26 & Sept. 2, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. 711-95-02/03, 743-83-01 loc. 1125, 1126

Invitation for Bids

Social Expenditure Management Project II
Department of Health, Philippines

Supply and Delivery of Anti-Rabies Vaccines
IFB No. WB-SEMP2-2001-005

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 564 of **August 16, 2001**.
2. The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Social Expenditure Management Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
3. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of Anti-Rabies Vaccines.

Items	Unit	Quantity
1. Human Anti-Rabies Vaccine (Verorab)	vials	58,000 vials
2. Equine Rabies Anti-Serum	vials	10,000 vials
3. Anti-Rabies Dog Vaccine	vials	32,000 vials

4. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

   Procurement and Logistics Service
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
   Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
   Telefax No. (632) 711-6712
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000) or US$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below before 2:00 p.m. on **October 16, 2001.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 2:00 p.m. on **September 25, 2001.**

   Multi-Media Conference Room
   Bldg.#18, Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above at 2:01 p.m. of **October 16, 2001**.

By the authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 25, 26 & Sept. 2, 2001)

National Power Corporation

Date : August 8, 2001
Reference No. :T2-P01-345

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Project: **Sp98.KBSS.Vt-0233, Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69 kV Substation Equipment for Schedule I - Kabankalan S/S in Negros, Occidental.**
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all construction plant, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by NPC), constructing complete the 50MVA Substation.

   Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid:

   Schedule I - Kabankalan S/S - P74,642,089.00
3. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB.

   License Particular:
   Schedule I - Kabankalan S/S Category AAA - General Engineering

   Registration Particular:
   Schedule I - Kabankalan S/S - Large B - Specialty: Electrical Works
4. Application for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NPC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding; and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
5. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting **August 31, 2001** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Power Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.

   Cor. Quezon Avenue and Agham Road,
   Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
   Telephone: (632) 921-3541 to 921-3580
   Facsimile: (632) 921-2468; 924-5464
   P.O. Box 1335 E-mail: diliman@napocor.com.ph
   Internet: http://www.napocor.com.ph
6. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **October 1, 2001** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. NPC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality there in, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **A.T. CORPUZ**
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – Aug. 23 & 25, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. 711-95-02/03, 743-83-01 loc: 1125, 1126

Invitation for Bids

Social Expenditure Management Project II
Department of Health, Philippines

Supply and Delivery of Various EPI Vaccines
IFB No. WB-SEMP2-2001-004

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 564 of **August 16, 2001**.
2. The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Social Expenditure Management Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
3. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of Various Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Vaccines.

Items	Unit	Quantity
1. BCG Vaccines + diluent	vials/ampules	292,500 vials
2. Oral Polio Vaccine w/ VVM	vials/tubes	578,600 vials
3. DPT Vaccine	vials	586,100 vials
4. Live Attenuated Measles Vaccine+diluent	vials	1,053,000 vials
5. Hepa B Vaccine	vials	200,900 vials
6. Tetanus Toxoid Vaccine	vials	455,900 vials

4. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

   Procurement and Logistics Service
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
   Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
   Telefax No. (632) 711-6712
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000) or US$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below before 9:00 a.m. on **October 16, 2001**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 9:00 a.m. on **September 25, 2001.**

   Multi-Media Conference Room
   Bldg. # 18, Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above at 9:01 a.m. of **October 16, 2001.**

By the authority of the Secretary of Health.
(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 25, 26 & Sept. 2, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. 711-95-02/03, 743-83-01 loc: 1125, 1126

Invitation for Bids

Social Expenditure Management Project II
Department of Health, Philippines

Supply and Delivery of TB Drugs
IFB No. WB-SEMP2-2001-001

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 564 of **August 16, 2001**.
2. The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Social Expenditure Management Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
3. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of TB drugs.

Items	Unit	Quantity
1. Type I	blister pack	2,200,000 blister pack
2. Type II	blister pack	3,800,000 blister pack
3. Ethambutol tablet	tablets	33,800,000 tablets
4. Pyrazinamide tablet	tablets	1,700,000 tablets
5. Streptomycin, injectable	vial, 1 gram	1,200,000 vials
6. Diluent	vial, 5 ml	1,200,000 vials
7. Pyrazinamide suspension	bottle of 250 mg/5 ml	84,000 bottles
8. Rifampicin suspension	bottle of 200 mg/5 ml	84,000 bottles
9. Isoniazid syrup	bottle of 200 mg/5 ml	56,000 bottles

4. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

   Procurement and Logistics Service
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
   Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
   Telefax No. (632) 711-6712
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000) or US$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below before 2:00 p.m. on **October 12, 2001.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 2:00 p.m. on **September 21, 2001.**

   Multi-Media Conference Room
   Bldg. # 18, Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above at 2:01 p.m. of **October 12, 2001.**

By the authority of the Secretary of Health.
(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 25, 26 & Sept. 2, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SLRC-2001-09A

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 11, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 UNIT	COMPUTER NOTEBOOK	3PTG01-009
A2	1 LOT	RTD, PLATINUM	3BAC01-282
A3	1 PC	ELECTRODE, PH	3BAC01-224
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 12, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	1 UNIT	J.O. REPAIR & CALIBRATION INC. REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE PARTS OF FLAME ANALYZER	3TIW01-012
B2	1 LOT	J.O. REPAIR OF TRANSFORMER OIL LEAKS	CSA01-23
B3	140 PCS	WOOD POLES (CREOSOTED)	3PTG01-038

Note: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) B1 - September 04, 2001; 9:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
2) B2 - September 04, 2001; 10:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
3) B3 - September 04, 2001, 11:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelopes, respectively starting **August 28, 2001**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **August 31, 2001** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's / Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION

(PDI--Aug. 25, 2001)

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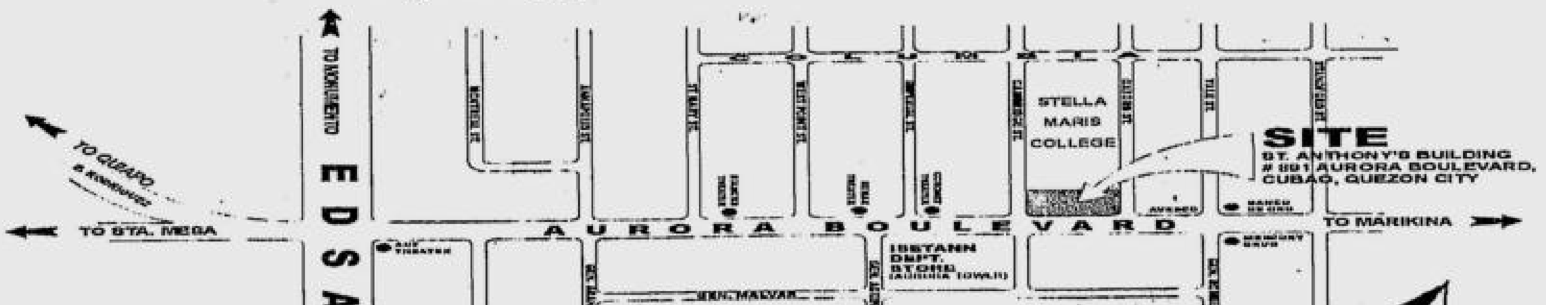

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Rosario Baraoidan Castro

"CHARING"

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 23, 2001 at the age of 86.

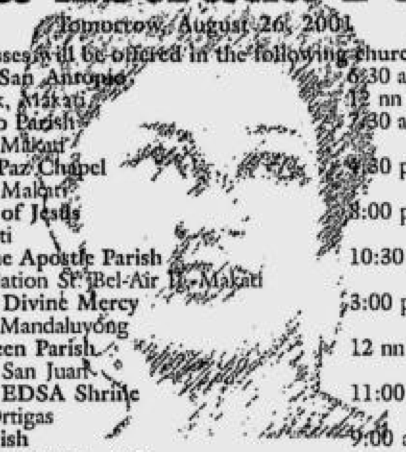
Her loving brothers and sisters **DR. PAULO**, DR. CANDELARIA (†), **ATTY. JESUS**, ENGR. JOSE (†), **DR. PEDRO, DRA. LOURDES**, PROF. SOCORRO (†), **PROF. CARIDAD, ATTY. VICENTE, ENGR. ELISEO**; brothers and sisters-in-law; nephews and nieces; grandchildren; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be brought to her residence in Laoag City on Sunday, August 26, 2001.

Interment will be announced later.

On the Occasion of the
7TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

Nina Estrada Puyat



Tomorrow, August 26, 2001
Masses will be offered in the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati	6:30 am & 7:45 am 12 nn & 6:30 pm
St. John Bosco Parish Pasay Rd., Makati	7:30 am & 5:15 pm
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel Greenbelt, Makati	4:30 pm
Sacred Heart of Jesus Dao, Makati	8:00 pm
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish 62 Constellation St. Bel-Air II, Makati	10:30 am
Shrine of the Divine Mercy Boni Ave., Mandaluyong	3:00 pm
Mary the Queen Parish Greenhills, San Juan	12 nn
Our Lady of EDSA Shrine Edsa cor Ortigas	11:00 am
St. Peter's Parish Commonwealth Ave., Q.C.	9:00 am
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Kanlaon cor Retiro St., Q.C.	5:00 pm
Quiapo Church Quiapo, Manila	6:00 am

Daddy, your spirit shall dwell in us!

ATTY. RICARDO JIMENO LARDIZABAL

April 3, 1925 — August 24, 2001

Wife **Natividad Fuentecilla Lardizabal**; children **Mimi** and **Nap Col-long**, **Exzur** and **Ruby**, **Dante** and **Lourdes**, **Raul** and **Anna**, **Lyra** and **Edward Marcos**, **Grace** and **Victor Festejo**, **Joycelyn** and **Jun**, **Doreen**, **Precious** and **Erwin**, **Gabriel "Sonny"**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Chapel in Marikina City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, August 26, 2001 at twilight.

NOREEN LIM GONZALES

(November 25, 1948 - August 20, 2001)

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 20, 2001 at the age of 52.

Her loving husband **RENE**; children **CREIGHTON**, **IRENE & JEFFREY**; mother-in-law **LUCIA**; brothers and sisters; brothers- and sisters-in-law, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Jerome Parish Church, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 26, 2001 at 7:00 a.m. at the Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City.

ROGELIO F. MAGSANOC SR.

June 19, 1939 — August 21, 2001

His wife **Lydia**; children **Boyet**, **Ernie** and **Ronnie**; daughter-in-law and grandchildren; brothers **Fely** (†), **Romeo** and sister **Norma** (†), relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 26, 2001 following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

FELIPE ESPAÑOL NAJERA

of Teachers' Village, Q.C. and Agno, Pangasinan

USAFFE Veteran,
husband of the late **REBECCA MIRANDA** (†)

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 23, 2001 at the age of 78.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Q.C. He is survived by children **Philip III** and **Nida**, **Tessa Flojo** and **Noel**, **Jeanette Rodriguez** and **Fed**; grandchildren and sister **Eufemia N. Doctor**.

Interment will be on August 26, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

TEODOLFO M. DE CASTRO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 22, 2001 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **VIOLETA**; children **Marijo & Nilo**, **Lynn & Lino**, **Frankie**, **Sasa & Danny**, **Paul**, **Johnted & Sylvia**, **Maricris & Mike**, **Michael**, **Dave & Annali**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be announced later.

JOSEFINA BULOS TECSON-BUENCAMINO

(Former Member, Philippine Orchid Society)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 23, 2001 at the age of 78.

Her husband **RTC Judge Felipe V. Buencamino (ret.)**; children **Pip** and **Olive**, **Pope** and **Claire** and **Pipo** and **Lorie**; grandchildren Paulo, Pio, Pol, Niña, Pippin, Leah and Mick; brothers and sisters **Lorenzo** (†) and **Nene**, **Zeny** and **Willie**, **Bing**, **Ben** and **Marty**, **Ning** and **Ed**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Bgy. San Vicente, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 26, 2001 at the Familia Tecson Cemetery, Bgy. Sta, Rita after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the San Miguel Parish Church, San Miguel, Bulacan.

LEOPOLDO ORGANO BONCAN

of Catanauan, Quezon and Makati City

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 24, 2001 at the age of 78.

He is survived by his bereaved wife **Choll**; children **Cita** and **Butch**, **Corito** and **Doy** (†), **Josie** and **Freddie**, **Cely**, **Leo** and **Suzette**, and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 2-B, Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, August 28, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Nacional Memorial Homes.

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die.

John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved

Hon. Salud Labayo Eva

Of Gubat, Sorsogon and Naga City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 21, 2001 at the age of 66.

Her bereaved husband **Dr. Adan Rañola Eva**, family, relatives and friends reuqest the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Imperial, at Peñafrancia Ave., Naga City, and will be moved to their residence in Gubat, Sorsogon on August 25, 2001.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 28, 2001, Gubat, Sorsogon.

In Loving Memory, 11th death anniversary

DOÑA ESTRELLA LUCERO VALERO

Holy Mass will be celebrated in La Union on Sunday, August 26, 2001, at the following:

St. Peter & Paul Parish Church, Bauang	6:00 a.m.
Pindangan Ruins Chapel, San Fernando	6:00 a.m.
St. Jude Parish Church, Poro	11:00 a.m.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

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Fax No. 711-3064

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
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Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959; (045) 322-5247

F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725/1730

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
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Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6181 to 82

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Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
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Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136 ; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City;
Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City;
Tels. 749-3806 to 11

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguillan Rd., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-3337

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MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210

MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; (0919) 348-7131

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.
Mandalagan, Bacolod City Tel. 433-7132

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-1204

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284

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16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286 / 87

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SERVICES
City of Legazpi

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Legazpi is inviting all authorized distributors/dealers of Garbage Compactor to participate in our forthcoming public bidding for the supply of

QUANTITY	SPECIFICATIONS
5 units	6-Tonner Garbage Compactor (Second hand)

The sealed proposal shall be accepted, evaluated and publicly opened at the General Services Office, City Hall Compound, City of Legazpi until 2:00 P.M. on **September 3, 2001.**

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bidder's proposal bond in Cash or Certified Check in the amount equivalent to 5% (five percent) of the bid price offered or a surety bond in the amount equivalent to 10% (ten percent) of the bid price offered.

The price quotation shall be in the Philippine Currency and shall include all government taxes, fees, or duties and other incidental expenses.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects therein or to accept such bids as may be found most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ROLEO R. BATTUNG**
General Services Officer

(PDI - Aug. 23, 24 & 25, 2001)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel: 911-6433/911-6001 Loc. 8592; Tel/Fax: 912-5491
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the UPGRADE OF ONE (1) BO-105C HELICOPTER of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of ***Forty Nine Million Six Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (Php 49,006,400.00)*** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from entities duly authorized by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) and appropriate civil aviation authority which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce the BO-105C Helicopter shall be entertained.

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***August 24, 2001*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***September 7, 2001*** at ***2:00 PM*** (local time) at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BO-105C Helicopter and Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on ***September 28, 2001*** at ***9:00 AM*** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at 10:00 AM at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO H. DE LEON**
Commodore AFP
Vice-Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 24 & 25, 2001)

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(NORSAMELCO)
Brgy. Magsaysay, Bobon, Northern Samar
CEL No. 0917-3619744

INVITATION TO BID

Norsamelco invites interested bidder to bid for the supply and delivery of treated wood pole (tannalized) for the construction of its distribution line. The wood poles to be supplied are Southern Yellow Pines or equivalent species. Below are the following sizes for wood pole to be supplied:

1. 25ft class 3 - 38 pcs.
2. 30ft class 3 - 165 pcs.
3. 35ft class 3 - 15 pcs.
4. Anchor logs - 133 pcs (4ft long)

Interested bidders are required to submit a letter of intent with company profile before a bid form is secured after a payment of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) non refundable. A pre-bid conference is schedule on **September 10, 2001** at Norsamelco board room at 8:00 a.m. The final opening of bid is on **September 17, 2001** at 8:00 a.m.

All bidders are required to submit a bid bond in the amount of 10% of total price. Norsamelco has right to reject any bid, which seems disadvantageous to Coop.

(Sgd.) **HENRY C. BANJAWAN**
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **RICARDO P. LARGO**
General Manager

(PDI - Aug. 25 & 26, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

White skins

Q. Why are white people called Caucasians?

A. The word "Caucasian" in referring to white people comes from the mountainous Caucasus region of Russia. It was here that anthropologists found skulls of ancient white people, so they gave the name "Caucasian" to the white race. However, this is a misnomer because the early inhabitants of the Caucasus were not typically white.

For the Record. Skin color is determined by a pigment called melanin. Dark-skinned people have more of this pigment than others; pink-skinned people have so little melanin that blood color shows through; albinos, or *anak-araw*, lack melanin. Skin color can serve utilitarian purpose. This is because melanin absorbs ultraviolet light from the sun, which is harful in excess but valuable in moderation. In Africa and other very sunny places, dark skin offers protection from too much ultraviolet light, and therefore has survival value. In Scandinavia and other parts of the world where there is less ultraviolet light, fair skin lets people get the sunlight they need for the formation of vitamin D in the body.

First of All. The first woman TV announcer was the German actress Ursula Patzschke, who was hired by Reichsposts towards the end of 1934 to introduce the experimental programs transmitted daily from Berlin. At first she only announced the programs, but later she recited poetry, or acted monologues she had written herself. She had a naturally informal manner, and would sometimes be accompanied by her dog or a couple of children.

WORD WATCH

Dubbing (dub'bing) : the broadcast term is a contracting of *doubling*.

PDI – Aug. 25, 2001

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II Edsa Cor Mapagmahal St.,
Diliman, Quezon City

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : August 23, 2001
Loan No. : PH-P201
I.F.B. No. : RWSSP V-2001-01

1. The Republic of the Philippines (GOP) has received an ODA Loan from JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 951 million Yen towards the cost of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Phase V (RWSSP V) signed December 28, 1999, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payment under the contract for supply and delivery of well rehabilitation equipment and maintenance tools.
2. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of the following items under one (1) bid package:
   Bid Package : Item 1 - Well Rehabilitation Equipment - 5 units
   Item 2 - Maintenance Tools - 61 sets
3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bid Documents at the office of:
   DILG Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (DILG-PBAC)
   c/o Water Supply and Sanitation Program Management Office (WSSPMO)
   Department of the Interior and Local Government
   5/F, A. Francisco Gold Condominium II
   EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street, Quezon City
4. A complete set of Bid Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m, from August 29, 2001 to September 10, 2001 at the above address upon submission of a written application and payment in cash of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00). Only Bidders who purchase the Bid Documents shall be allowed to tender their bids.
5. All bids, prepared and submitted in compliance with the requirements set forth in the Bid Documents, must be delivered at the WSS-PMO, DILG, 5/F, A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street, Quezon City before the 1:00 PM, October 12, 2001.
6. DILG reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or infirmity contained therein and accept the bid considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. AGRIPINO G. MORGA**
Assistant Secretary and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Aug. 25 & 27, 2001)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

THIRD (3rd) INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY OF THE FOLLOWING:

a. Contract Package No. 13 : Four (4)-Drawer Lateral Files (Stand Alone) with Overhead File Cabinet, Four (4)-Drawer Lateral Files (Stand Alone) without Overhead Cabinet, Lateral Files (On Tracks with Fixed File Cabinet) and Open File Shelves;
b. Contract Package No. 13A : File Compactors; and
c. Contract Package No. 13B : File Cabinet for Maps and Index Cards

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply, delivery and assembly of lateral files and compactors for office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification, and bidding for Contract Package Nos. 13, 13A & 13B for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila, with the following schedule:

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-Qualification Conference	Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/Pre-disqualification after:	Dates of Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/Pre-disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Aug. 27 to 30, 2001 @9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Aug. 31, 2001 @10:00 AM	a. Evaluation of Pre-qualification Documents & Brochures	Sept. 12, 2001	Sept. 27, 2001 @9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Sept. 28, 2001 @10:00 AM	Oct. 5, 2001 @10:00 AM
		b. Evaluation of Displays versus Brochures	Sept. 19, 2001			
		c. Selection of top choices from the displays by sub-Committee and Special Committee	Sept. 26, 2001			

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the LBP Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00 for the new suppliers (those who did not secure the pre-qualification documents during the first and second invitations), and P700.00 for those who have secured/submitted pre-qualification documents during the first and second invitations. Only those suppliers who secured the pre-qualification documents shall be eligible to participate in the pre-qualification process.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given three (3) calendar-days to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than September 6, 2001, 3:00 PM, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" & "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on October 5, 2001 (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2/F, LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ**
Chairman
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Bldg. Project

(PDI – Aug. 25, 26 & 27, 2001)

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Mr. Victor Navarro
Times City News Agency #9 Mt. Province Alley,
2nd Floor Maharlika Livelihood Center, Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 443-4532/443-3175/443-4381
Mr. Rey Esilan
Cora's News Agency #56 Magnolia Alley,
Maharlika Livelihood Center,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-6178
Mr. Juanito Castro
J & R Agency
Parking Lot Upper Mabini Street
(fronting Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
Tel. Nos. 444-6526 (074) 304-2611
Cellphone No. (0918) 290-0175
Batangas City
Mr. Romero Clarin c/o Ms. Wilma C. Dayrit
RVC Newsstand, P. Burgos Street, Batangas City
Tel. No. (043) 723-4426
Mr. Ramon P. Perez c/o Ms. Dodie Simon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
P&S Perez Building, 48 D. Silang Street,
Batangas City
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Mr. Manolo Iñigo
Fausta Village, Tabing-Ilog, Marilao, Bulacan
Telefax (044) 923-1314 EasyCall 141-297254
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
253 Rizal, Tancar, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 766-1260
Office - Care Communications
Baliwag Shopping Center 2nd Floor BMG Building
Barrera St. Poblacion, Baliwag, Bulacan
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#7 Sanandar Street, Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
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City Supermart
Sanciangco Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-1149
Mr. Hayward Pablo
#537 Zulueta Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-2083
Nueva Vizcaya
Wimmer John L. Manzano
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Telefax No. (078) 3267172
Pampanga
Mr. Noel Cabaero
Lot 4 Block 20 Phase II
Corner St. Peter and St. Jude Streets
St. Jude Village, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 963-3716/(0916) 506-6249
Dopeso Building, Dolores Homesite
McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. (045) 961-3787, e-mail: chensum@pamp.pworld.net.ph
Pangasinan
Mr. Vic Chua
JVC Cargo Forwarders Co. Ltd.
243 Rizal Street, Calasiao, Pangasinan
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Mr. Mario Novales
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AB Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan City, Pangasinan
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Ms. Angelita Leonor
Leonor's Merchant
E. Valencia Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. (048) 434 2200/433-2531/433-2551
Mr. Tomas Choy Tan
40 Quezon Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. No. (048) 433-2602, Cell No. (0918) 2332137
Tuguegarao
Mr. Rommel Pobre
Aglamag Newsstand Stall #7 Tuguegarao Central Market
Gonzaga Street, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
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Brgy. 34 Oro Site, Legaspi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-1274/480-5000
Cathy P. Bendin
BM Prieto Marketing
Quezon Avenue, Legaspi City
Tel. No. (052) 214-3043/214-3045/820-3748
Lipa City
Ms. Matilde Maningo c/o Ms. Rose Perez
Lifetime Bookstore, Pasia Building, T.M. Kalaw St.
(near Lipa Bank) 4217 Lipa City
Tel. No. (043) 7566726/7561330
Email: [illegible]@aaa-ph.net
Naga City
Mr. Ramon B. Ela
RB Newspaper and Magazine Headquarters
Ground Floor Supermarket, General Luna Street,
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Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-3927/227-4410
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Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
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Mr. James Hao
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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

APC to utilize ECOstructure blueprints for E-business customers

AMERICAN Power Conversion (APC) will utilize the ECOstructure (EMC/Cisco/Oracle Infrastructure) initiative blueprints to help deliver maximum uptime to customers. As an ECOstructure solutions provider, APC will use the expertise it has developed as a provider of uninterruptible power supply (UPS) and power availability products to develop new approaches and methodologies to eliminate downtime caused by power disturbances and outages for e-business customers.

The ECOstructure initiative empowers e-businesses by helping improve and simplify the joint implementation of EMC, Cisco Systems and Oracle's high-availability e-business infrastructures and providing open access to verified e-business infrastructure blueprints.

"APC's experience in providing solutions to address significant issues on systems availability, coupled with EMC, Cisco Systems and Oracle infrastructure expertise, will rapidly and reliably satisfy end-customers' e-business demands," said Peter Rumsey, vice president of APC's Enterprise Solutions Group. "APC will use the ECOstructure blueprints as a tool to help instill trust and reliability in the IT solutions of firms entering the e-business arena."

The physical environment of an installation, consisting of power, environmental and security layers, is the foundation upon which high-availability applications are built. APC's power availability products and services are complemented by precision cooling and management devices designed to bulletproof this foundation, helping e-business clients reach their business process availability goals.

"As an ECOstructure solution provider, APC will provide the framework for the essential power and environmental infrastructure upon which high-availability applications can be built," explained Dan Warnshuis, program manager at Cisco Systems. "Through the involvement of solution providers that utilize ECOstructure, e-businesses can implement solutions that maximize availability with a low total cost of ownership."

This move by APC will eventually benefit its existing e-business customers in the Philippines – a market APC is developing. "Although e-commerce is relatively in its infancy, the Philippines must continue laying the groundwork for e-commerce in preparation for its eventual upswing when the economy picks-up," says APC country manager Jason Lim.

APC's comprehensive power availability solutions are designed to meet the power requirements of IT and communications applications worldwide. APC solutions range from surge suppressors protecting against damaging power surges, to UPSs providing continuous power to all critical IT equipment, to DC-power systems supplying primary and back-up power for communications gear. Power management tools and power availability consulting services complement these offerings with diagnostic, management and monitoring capabilities.

GLAXOSMITHKLINE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

GlaxoSmithKline Philippines president and managing director Amado T. Tadena (far left), vice president for corporate affairs Noel Isberto (second form left) and University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (UERMMMC) section of pulmonary medicine consultant and 1988 graduate of the GlaxoSmithKline Fellowship Program Dr. Isagani Rodriguez (far right) enjoy a break during the announcement of the GlaxoSmithKline Fellowship Program for 2001 at the Center for Education and the Arts, GlaxoSmithKline Corporate Centre, Makati City. The GlaxoSmithKline Fellowship Program is a comprehensive and long-term program aimed at providing doctors with adequate support to upgrade and further hone their medical skills and training. It works in close coordination with different partner medical institutions and hospitals in the country to provide technical training to doctors, experts and specialists, who in turn will serve as trainors and facilitators. GlaxoSmithKline is currently sponsoring more than 100 fellows in this program which has benefited more than 400 doctors since its conception in 1981. GlaxoSmithKline is committed to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.

CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONIES

Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI) senior product manager Aileen Joaquin (seated, right) shakes hands with Cinderella Marketing Corp. business development manager Richie Coronel Santos during a recent contract signing ceremony formalizing the tie-up between Kotex White pads, Kotex Fresh Breathable pantiliners and the Espirit clothes line. Kotex white pads and Kotex Fresh Breathable pantiliners served as official sponsors during Espirit's fashion show. The show featured a raffle promo, cocktails and the inauguration of Esprit's new store. As part of the agreement, Kotex will be part of Espirit's year-round activities which include back-to-school parties, fashion shows, movie premiere nights, fashion and beauty fairs, school fairs and outreach programs. Witnessing the event were (standing from left) Cinderella ad and promo assistant Cielo Bulos and O&M advertising group events planner Jay Redondo. Kotex White pads and Kotex Fresh Breathable Pantiliners are quality products of K-CPI.

AIR CADET EXCHANGE

Canadian delegates to the yearly International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) hosted by the Philippine Air Force (PAF) toured PAF bases, military installations, historical and cultural sites in the Philippines. This is in line with PAF chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor's program to foster international goodwill and understanding with aviation as the common denominator. In photo (from left) are Capt. Joseph Nearing, Canadian Air Force (CAF) escort officer; Col. Roberto Ricalde, commander of the PAF Air Reserve Command; Lt. JL de Jaas (CAF) and Col. Rene V. Certeza, commander of the Reserve Airlift and Tactical Support Group (RATSG) who supervised the program.

Richwell's Holiday Tradeshow

THIS SEPT. 6 and 7 Richwell Trading Corporation, the toy manufacturer and distributor of mainstream toys such as Barbie Dolls, Hotwheels and Matchbox, Vtech Electronic Toys, and Chicco lines will hold a tradeshow. The tradeshow will be at the Main Ballroom of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City. Holiday Tradeshow 2001 is Richwell's way of celebrating its 21st year as the leader in toy manufacturing and distributorship in the country. Richwell will be putting up an exhibit area highlighting all the latest products from all its brands. Joining in the exhibit are Richwell big bosses Alberto S. Yao and Myrna T. Yao.

Education plans with Citibank

CITIBANK Ready Credit is offering new and existing account holders a chance to win educational plans from College Assurance Plans Inc. Apply for a Ready Credit until Oct. 31 and when approved, you automatically get one raffle entry. Prizes up for grabs are educational plans from CAP Inc. The grand prize is a CAP Traditional Educational Plan for exclusive college and university that can be used anytime. The second and third prizes are fixed-term plans worth P580,000 and P280,000. New Ready Credit account holders who apply during the promo period will also receive a 50-percent discount on their first year annual fee or P750. More information about Ready Credit is available at www.citibank.com.ph. For inquiries call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila or 234-9999 in Metro Cebu.

Pond's proves it listens and 'resPond's'

POND'S just proved that it is indeed an Institute that listens and "resPond's". As the brand which listens, understands and responds to everybody's skin care needs, the Pond's Institute is undertaking a wide-scale program on skin care around the country, including schools and malls.

"As the authority in the skin care market, we want to extend our gratitude to the community by educating people on proper skin care," said Karen Joaquin, brand assistant of Pond's Institute.

Recently, the Pond's Institute joined various schools in welcoming the students in college and high school back to their respective institutes of learning.

In the orientation day of the various schools such as St. Scholastica's College and the College of Saint Benilde, Monica Tobias, the first Pond's Institute spokesperson, spoke in front of thrilled capacity crowds.

The students instantly warned up to Monica's soothing, friendly voice and refreshing face. Looking at her unblemished face, the students wondered how she has managed to survive pimples and blackheads – as she claimed she once had without any unsightly marks. Monica was quick to share with the curious audience what she learned from experience: it is important to care for one's skin, and that means managing it well on a daily basis.

Monica opened the floor to the lively young audience who asked her several questions on basic skin care regimen, proper acne prevention, managing oily skin and--quite mischievously--the free samples Pond's was giving away. These included Pond's Facial Wash, Pond's Cold Cream and Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin Cream.

Asked about what she wants the students to learn in her short talk, Monica said she hopes the students will have learned a lot about caring for one's skin and knowing the proper regimen needed to maintain good skin.

"We are committed to learning, improving and sharing with you our skin-care secrets. Pond's is, after all, an institute that listens and resPond's," Monica assured.

Monica would have gladly shared more stories with the students, following their warm reception of her skin-care talk. She will have more opportunities to do as the Pond's Institute continues its school tour for the rest of the school year.

Aside from the school tour, the Pond's Institute will proceed with the second half of its successful Pond's Grand Mall Tour around the country. This is certainly good news for those who may no longer be students in school but are students in life.

"We are extending our successful Pond's Grand Mall Tour to reach out to more consumers," said Ivy Pineda, assistant brand manager of Pond's.

Just recently, at Alabang Town Center, the Pond's Institute booth made available free samples, free consultation and free demonstrations to women – and even to men – who didn't mind getting a skin makeover in front of several curious onlookers.

The Institute is now touring Gaisano Mall in CDO until Aug. 27. For other details, call the Pond's Institute Call Center at 588-7888 or e-mail ponds.institute-ph@unilever.com.

Clips

Orafti at food expo

ORAFTI Active Food Ingredients will be displayed at AsiaFood Expo 2001, the 10th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology on Sept. 5 to 8 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila. Orafti brings to the market a dietary supplement that has active fibers for a better digestive function, prebiotic for a purified body, increased calcium uptake for stronger bones and promising developments which prevents colon cancer and decreased blood lipids. There will be a technical seminar regarding Inulin and Oligofructose on AsiaFood Expo 2001. Call Helen Grace Juvie Baisa, Angliss Philippines, Rockefeller Street corner Arthur Street, Makati City at 889-1676 or e-mail j.baisa@angliss.com.ph. AsiaFood Expo is organized by Trade Information Marketing and Exhibitions Inc. (834-0085 to 86; fax 831-3828). E-mail time@skyinet.net.

Crown Asia promo

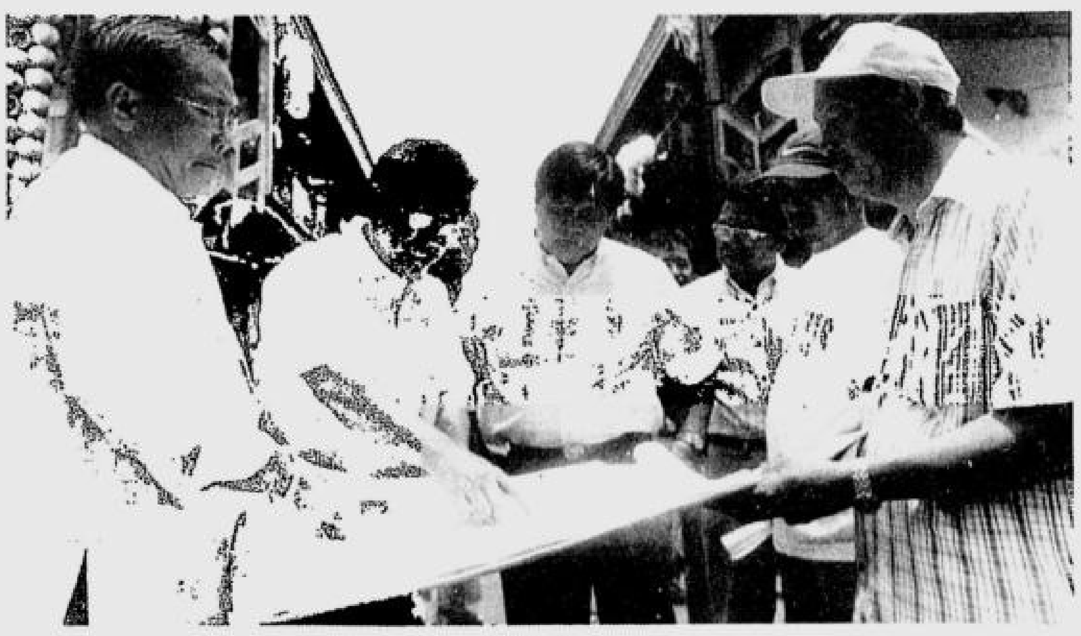
BUYERS of Crown Asia houses and lots can win one of three trips to Hong Kong in a special program marking their sixth anniversary. Financing or spot cash buyers and those who have placed a reservation for a Crown Asia house and lot from July to Dec. 31 are qualified to join the grand raffle of the program called "I Own Because I Can." Three overnight stay packages for two at a five-star hotel (Holiday Inn) will be given away monthly while three trips for two to Hong Kong are at stake at the grand draw scheduled for January 2002. For details, call 726-0083 to 84 or visit www.crownasia.com.ph.

Designer gardens in 'My Home'

THE LUSH greenery of a sprawling backyard in La Vista takes the spotlight in this month's My Home magazine, an issue dedicated primarily to garden havens. Landscape design pioneer Rico Sison, widely known for his intricate work at the Tagaytay Highlands, displays how a former unattended pocket of land can be transformed into every man's tropical paradise. Also taking centerstage this month is the celebrity home of showbiz couple Ogie Alcasid and wife Michelle van Eimeren. My Home is published by Earth+Style Corporation, the lifestyle property developer, in cooperation with Mega Magazine Publishing, Inc. (MMPI).

APC, IBM CONTRACT SIGNING

Asia Pacific College (APC) and IBM Solutions Delivery Inc. (IBM SDI Inc.) signed recently a memorandum of agreement for an educational alliance to provide an industry relevant courseware. APC will adopt the Lotus Notes Groupware course of IBM SDI in its College of Information Technology curriculum. Shown at the contract signing are (from left) Dennis Reyes, APC program director for SSE, CNE and CEE; Michael Reyes, APC assistant to the program director; Dr. Paulino Tan, APC president; Jennifer Tuason-Amihan, APC marketing and external relations director; Paul Zaldarriaga, IBM SDI president; Burt Gabot, IBM SDI education services manager and Ferdinand Macatangay, Lotus Phils. business alliance manager.



REPAIR WORKS AT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN

As promised by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her first State of the Nation Address to have a 'social bias' for the urban poor, the National Housing Authority (NHA) recently started the P6-million repair of temporary housing facilities of former Smokey Mountain residents in Tondo, Manila. NHA general manager Edgardo Pamintuan (second from left) said the repair works include replacement of wooden railing and roofing of the buildings and the unclogging of drainage canals and septic tanks. Also shown are (from left) NHA National Capital Region team head Arch. Arthur Cabantac, R-II Builders vice president Pat Yuson, and engineer Mario Manabat, Arch. Manuel Mindanao and engineer Edgardo Najera of NHA.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Wanted: health program for drug-resistant TB

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

WHILE the government spends about P1,600 for each tuberculosis patient for six months under its Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) program, sufferers of multidrug resistant TB (MDR TB) are scrounging around for assistance for their treatment.

The Department of Health has estimated that there are 28,000 Filipinos suffering from MDR TB and medication expenses for each patient can shoot up to P250,000.

While 28,000 might seem small compared to the 213,610 TB cases identified in the 1997 National Prevalence Survey, health experts are concerned that these few cases continuously transmit the drug resistant microorganisms to their immediate environment.

Lung Center of the Philippines' public health and domiciliary chief, Dr. Raoul Villarete, said MDR TB patients have a potentially devastating "multiplier effect" that could lead to innumerably more Filipinos who could be infected with the TB strain that could not be treated with regular, and cheaper, anti-TB drugs.

"This is no longer just a health problem but a cause for social concern," Villarete said of MDR TB.

He added that this could be a reason the TB problem persists in the country despite "a very well funded DOTS program."

The government budget for DOTS is said to amount to P400 million. The DOTS is expected to fully eliminate TB in 10 to 15 years.

At present the Philippines ranks seventh in the world in tuberculosis prevalence.

The country loses 75 Filipinos a day to TB, maybe even as much as 130 if you ask nongovernment organizations. TB is the fifth leading cause of death.

Figures from the Annual Risk of Tuberculosis Infection (Arti) study showed that there are 115 new cases of smear positive individuals per 100,000 population. The DOH Health Policy and Systems Research said that this translates to a total of 78,890 new cases each year that is added to the existing pool of TB cases.

With the government prioritizing its health program on the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos afflicted with the regular TB strain, MDR TB patients have to go around on their own looking for their treatment.

Some have sought help from doctors at the Lung Center and the Quezon Institute. They line up and wait—either for the administration of second line of drugs from the two medical institutions or death.

There are 20 MDR TB patients enrolled at the Lung Center. But the lack of funds, said Villarete, prevents them from conducting research to find new drugs for the patients.

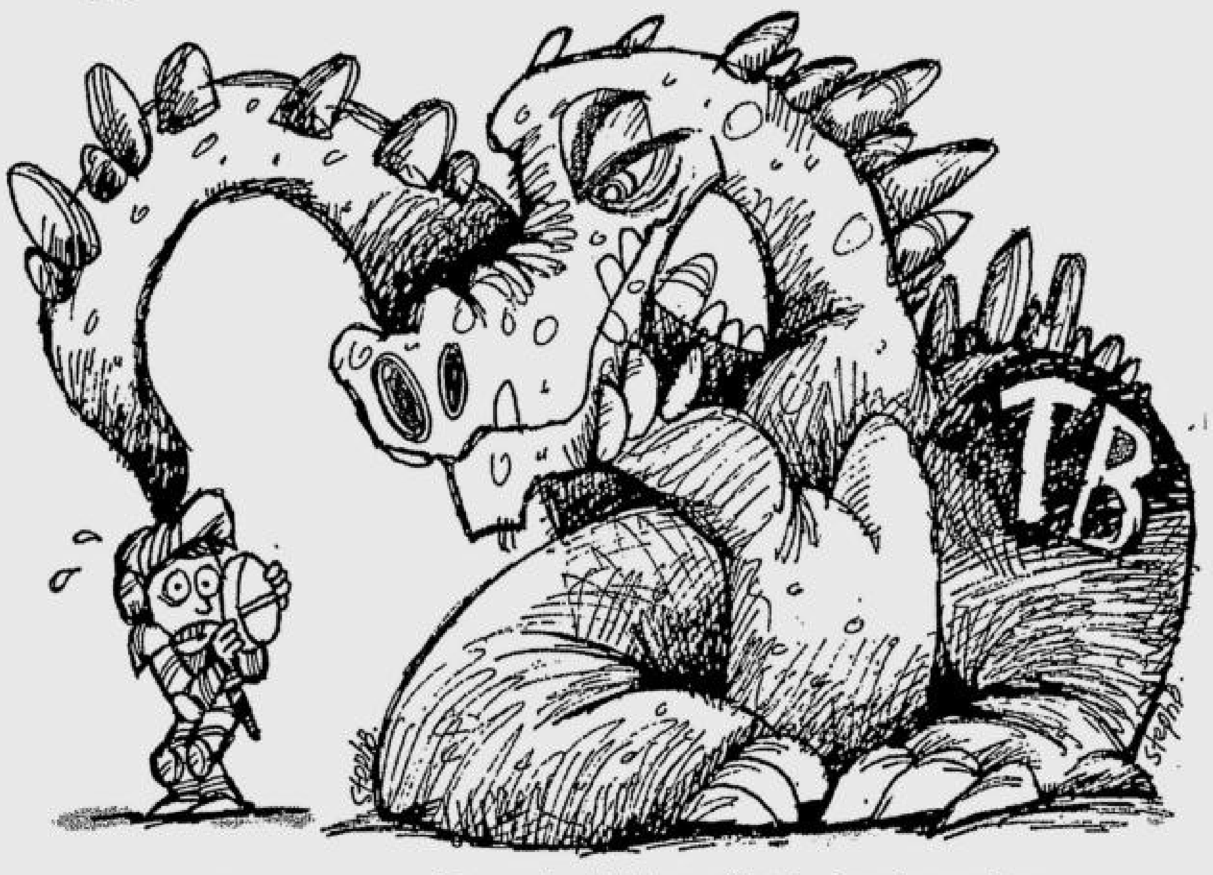
He said the Lung Center used to have 45 MDR TB patients but a fire that hit the hospital coupled with financial problems caused a slowdown in operations.

Villarete said only five of their 45 patients were successfully treated.

The biggest factors contributing to the persistence of MDR TB are the interrupted supply of medication and the patients' lack of understanding and awareness of the importance of completing drug treatments.

Villarete and a team of Lung Center doctors are establishing a department that will take care of patients after their DOTS treatment.

In a separate interview during a recent biotechnology conference, Dr. Ben Peczon said TB could be an opportunity for the development of biotech drugs.



Fighting lung disease caused by smoking

BY DR. DANIEL TAN
Board member, COPD Foundation of the Philippines

IN THE PHILIPPINES, for every 1,000 people around 500 are males. Half of these males smoke. And within this group, around 16 suffer from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

Sixteen out of every thousand may seem a small number, but computed using the country's total population, it means that a staggering 1.28 million Filipino males are suffering from COPD.

Assuming that each of these sufferers is a minimum wage earner, the estimated loss of income each year due to COPD is, at the minimum, a staggering P123 million. Moreover, it is estimated that someone with moderate to severe COPD can spend from a quarter to half a million pesos per year on medications. Think of what these millions could do for children's education and the welfare of the families.

In 20 years, COPD is projected to be one of the top diseases in developing countries like the Philippines.

COPD is an umbrella term for a disease that carries the symptoms of emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

It is the fourth leading cause of death in the world, attacking men and women at the peak of their lives. It is a debilitating disease that has no cure. The sufferer struggles each living moment to get that elusive normal breath that most people take for granted. The difficulty in breathing, which is sometimes accompanied by chronic cough, results from damage to airways and air sacs in the lungs. When the lungs are unable to function properly, intake of oxygen is impaired and other organs, especially the heart, are eventually affected.

The most devastating consequence of COPD is the incapacitation of the patient during the most productive years of his life. It destroys the patient's ability to earn a living and disrupts the lives of his family members for as long as 20 years before death occurs.

What is the main cause of COPD?

Cigarette smoking. It has been said that if it were not for smoking, COPD would have been a rare disease in the world.

Although COPD is considered a very preventable disease, effective treatments for the relief of breathlessness do exist in the form of bronchodilators like beta-agonist, anticholinergic and xanthine drugs. Early diagnosis is considered critical in prolonging and improving the quality of life of these patients.

The COPD Foundation of the Philippines was established to help prevent COPD from becoming an "epidemic" in a few years. Its main objectives include the promotion of public awareness and education and organizing, undertaking or assisting in the conduct of basic and applied scientific researches on COPD in the Philippines.

The Foundation is a nonstock, nonprofit organization registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Feb. 14, 2001. Its incorporators include Doctors Teresita de Guia, Camilio Roa, Cecil Tady and Renato Dantes. The Foundation is currently housed at Room 613 of the Medical Arts Building of the Philippine Heart Center.

For 2001-2002, the COPD Foundation has lined up several activities. These include the sponsorship of the COPD Award for Outstanding Research and Outstanding Educational Program/Service, conducting an inventory of researches on COPD in the Philippines in preparation for the holding of a workshop on research priority setting on COPD, conducting short courses for general practitioners regarding new information on better diagnosis and management of the disease and providing regular information on COPD to the public, mainly through the media.

One might think it would be unlikely for him to get COPD. The newness of the name, the deceptively small number of sufferers might make you shrug your shoulders and say, "It will never be me."

The millions of COPD patients probably thought the same way—until the simple task of inhaling and exhaling became a dreaded routine for them, for the rest of their lives.

The COPD Foundation of the Philippines, together with other organizations, aims to help diminish the specter of COPD, but its eradication ultimately depends on each individual's choice, whether or not to light up. Until then, too many and too much will continue to be lost—lives, pesos, dreams, time, opportunities.

In search of Agapito Flores

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

(Conclusion)

WE reiterate that the myth of Agapito Flores inventing the fluorescent lamp is just that—a myth. Unfortunately, this myth has been perpetuated by science educators, journalists, textbook writers and the "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" game show. Last week we looked at the first part of Academician Benito Vergara's account of a scientific search for evidence linking Agapito Flores to the fluorescent lamp. Vergara is an esteemed member of the National Academy of Science and Technology, the highest science policymaking body in the country. Now we continue with the second part of his essay:

Most sources agree on the following account about the discovery of fluorescence: The first significant inquiry into luminescence began with the synthesis of a new material and not with the study of the naturally available fireflies or luminous sea bacteria. The study was started around 1603 by an Italian cobbler-chemist, Vincenzo Cascariolo. He found a stone near Bologna and combined it with heavy spar or barium sulfate. He did not get what he wanted from the experiment but he observed a purple-blue glow at night from the material.

News of the material was transmitted to Galileo who gave samples to Guio Cesare Lagalla in Rome. The discovery later spread to other scientists, including Isaac Newton. In 1852 the English mathematician-physicist George Gabriel Stokes studied this phenomenon in detail and gave the name "fluorescence"—derived from "fluor-spar" (the name of the mineral) and "escence" as the analogous term opalescence. Fluorspar or fluorite is calcium fluoride, which is different from sodium fluoride that is added to toothpaste or drinking water.

The name fluorescence may sound like Flores, but 1852 was certainly way before Flores was born. Many articles about Filipino scientists have perpetuated the idea that the fluorescent lamp was in honor of Flores. The name was almost certainly a coincidence, so we conducted further research.

The search continued with scientific journals and US and Philippine patent rights, but they were all dead ends. No record exists of Flores having been involved in the development of the lamp, nor the rights having been bought from him.

On the local story about Flores going to President Manuel Quezon during the early part of his term, the dates show that it would have been impossible to develop the product that fast. President Quezon was inaugurated into office on Nov. 15, 1935. If Flores went to him during the early part of the term, then that would have been around 1936. The fluorescent lamp as already commercially available in 1938 and was introduced at the World's Fair in New York in 1939. Research and development of the lamp by a single person would have taken more than two years.

We also requested General Electric (GE) for a history of the fluorescent lamp and it provided the following additional information: The first active research on the lamp started in 1934 at the GE research laboratory at Mela Park. This involved physicists, chemists and engineers and even a Nobel Prize winner as consultant and they experimented with more than 10,000 materials! (It is possible but extremely difficult to imagine that somewhere in Manila, Flores with no laboratory and no high school education was doing the same research, competing with so many scientists.)

In September 1935, the fluorescent lamp was introduced to the Illuminating Engineering Society, but still there were hundreds of details that needed to be worked out. Records at that time noted that "these details would have to be painstakingly figured out before any new lamp of this type could be produced even in the laboratory." Patents were filed in 1936.

No scientific report, no valid statement, no rigorous documents can be used to credit Flores for the discovery of the fluorescent lamp. We have tried to correct this misconception, but the media (for one) and our textbooks (for another) keep using the Flores example. Sadly, the Philippines cannot claim this invention through hearsay alone.

Dr. Ben Vergara can be reached at 837-2071 local 2170 or 2171.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. She can be contacted at the Ateneo Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, or at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

The (tin) man's new heart

BY MASSIE K. SANTOS

IN 1967, Dr. Christiaan Barnard of the Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa cut Louis Washkanky's ribcage open, removed his heart and replaced it with another.

Washkanky lived 18 days after the operation, but died after his body rejected the new organ. Still, within days of the operation, the whole world knew that the first successful heart transplant had occurred. It was about time—surgeons had been performing transplant operations with kidneys, lungs, pancreas, bone marrow and liver since 1958.

Fast-forward to 34 years later.

On July 2, Doctors Laman Gray and Robert Dowling of the University of Louisville in Kentucky went down in history for replacing a human heart with a completely self-contained artificial heart made of titanium and plastic.

Their 59-year-old patient had been so ill that a normal heart transplant was out of the question and doctors had given him less than a month to live.

Enter the AbioCor Implantable Replacement Heart, a device made by Abiomed Inc. in Massachusetts.

Two days after the operation, doctors began guessing that he might not just live the month out, but actually live for several more months, if not years. He's exceeded all expectations so far: on Aug. 21, less than two months after the operation, former teacher and telephone company employee Robert Tools spoke to reporters for the first time via video conference.

He no longer has a heartbeat, but he said his new heart's whirring noise "makes me realize I'm alive because I can hear it without a stethoscope."

Once again, medical science and technology has found a way to prolong man's life and improve the quality of life.

Tricky transplants

Organ transplants have always been tricky due to the number of factors that needed to be considered.

First, donors of healthy hearts, livers, kidneys and so on must be found. This is a process that could, and has, taken years because most people seem to prefer being buried intact.

Another problem is that the donated organs might not match the patients who need the organs. At the moment, twins are the least likely to face that particular problem. Whether or not human cloning will change that is yet to be seen.

Donated organs that do match the blood type and other requirements of a seriously ill patient face one final problem: rejection. Just because the patient wants that new kidney doesn't mean his body is willing to accept it. The body's immune system may see the transplanted organ as a foreign organism similar to a virus and attack it. On the other hand, it may not even miss the old organ. Immunosuppressant drugs to help the body accept the new organ may be taken for periods as short as just a few weeks after the operation to as long as the rest of the patient's life.

Alternatives to transplants

Science has come up with a variety of alternatives to prevent or delay replacing damaged organs. Dialysis machines can fill in for kidneys if used on a regular basis. Chemotherapy and radiation can kill cancer cells and delay the spread of the disease if caught early enough. And there are defibrillators and pacemakers designed to keep an ailing heart at work and, in some cases, jumpstart it should it fail.

Still, there is a price to pay for such assistance.

Dialysis machines are bulky and cannot leave their rooms. Radiation attacks all cells, both healthy and diseased, further weakening the immune system. Pacemakers can set off security alarms at airports and cause adverse reactions if the patient uses a cell phone.

Another problem is that these devices may require external power sources. Twenty years ago, this meant that the patient would have tubes and wires coming out of his torso and be attached to 300-pound controllers. Today there are devices like the left ventricular assist device (LVAD), whose external controller and charger resembles a fairly heavy shoulder bag. While they may hamper a person's movements, they do allow him to have a fairly active and normal life.

Less accessories

The AbioCor heart does not have as many external accessories as previous devices have. This is partly due to the fact that so much of the device is already implanted inside the patient—approximately two pounds of metal and plastic reside in Tools' ribcage. A relatively small battery pack has to be worn outside the skin like a belt bag to make sure the internal batteries are always running.

The AbioCor heart is the same one that was first tested on calves, although those trials were stopped after three months.

Not yet for women

The device is not for everyone. Doctors have pointed out that women could not use the AbioCor heart because it's too big for them. According to Dr. Robert Jarvik of the Jarvik Institute, which has been producing artificial hearts for decades, the AbioCor is suited for individuals who weigh approximately 180-200 pounds.

Tools himself admits that the experimental heart is heavy. An avid fisherman, he is currently undergoing physical therapy and meets with his doctors regularly.

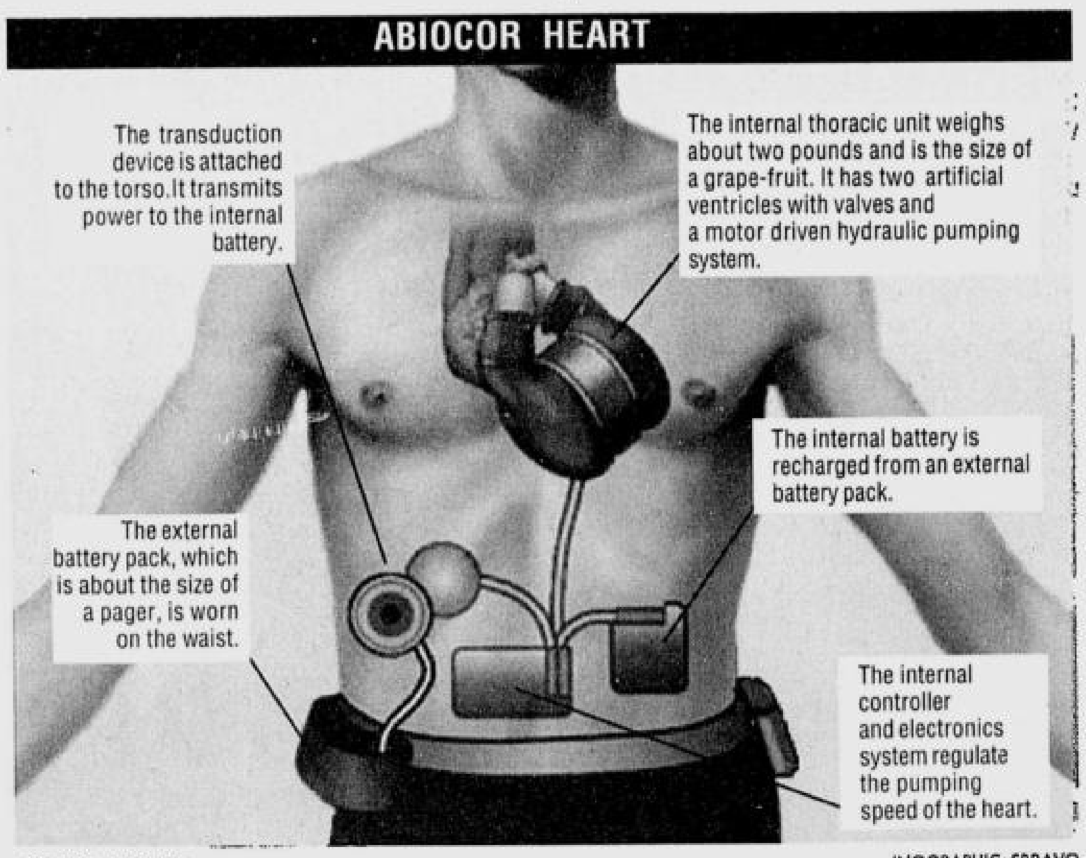
The device is not perfect—at least 20 risk areas could cause his death. But Tools is just glad to simply be alive.

The US Food and Drug Administration has allowed four more patients to receive the device before the year is out as part of the clinical trials.

Producing a smaller version of heart may take a few more years, but perhaps it won't take as long, given man's fascination with shrinking every possible device. After producing the television, the computer and the cell phone in all sizes, colors and shapes, can artificial human organs be that far behind?

The answer would be yes, and would involve a discussion on the reality of cyborgs. But that is another story.

ABIOCOR HEART


The transduction device is attached to the torso. It transmits power to the internal battery.
The internal thoracic unit weighs about two pounds and is the size of a grape-fruit. It has two artificial ventricles with valves and a motor driven hydraulic pumping system.
The internal battery is recharged from an external battery pack.
The external battery pack, which is about the size of a pager, is worn on the waist.
The internal controller and electronics system regulate the pumping speed of the heart.

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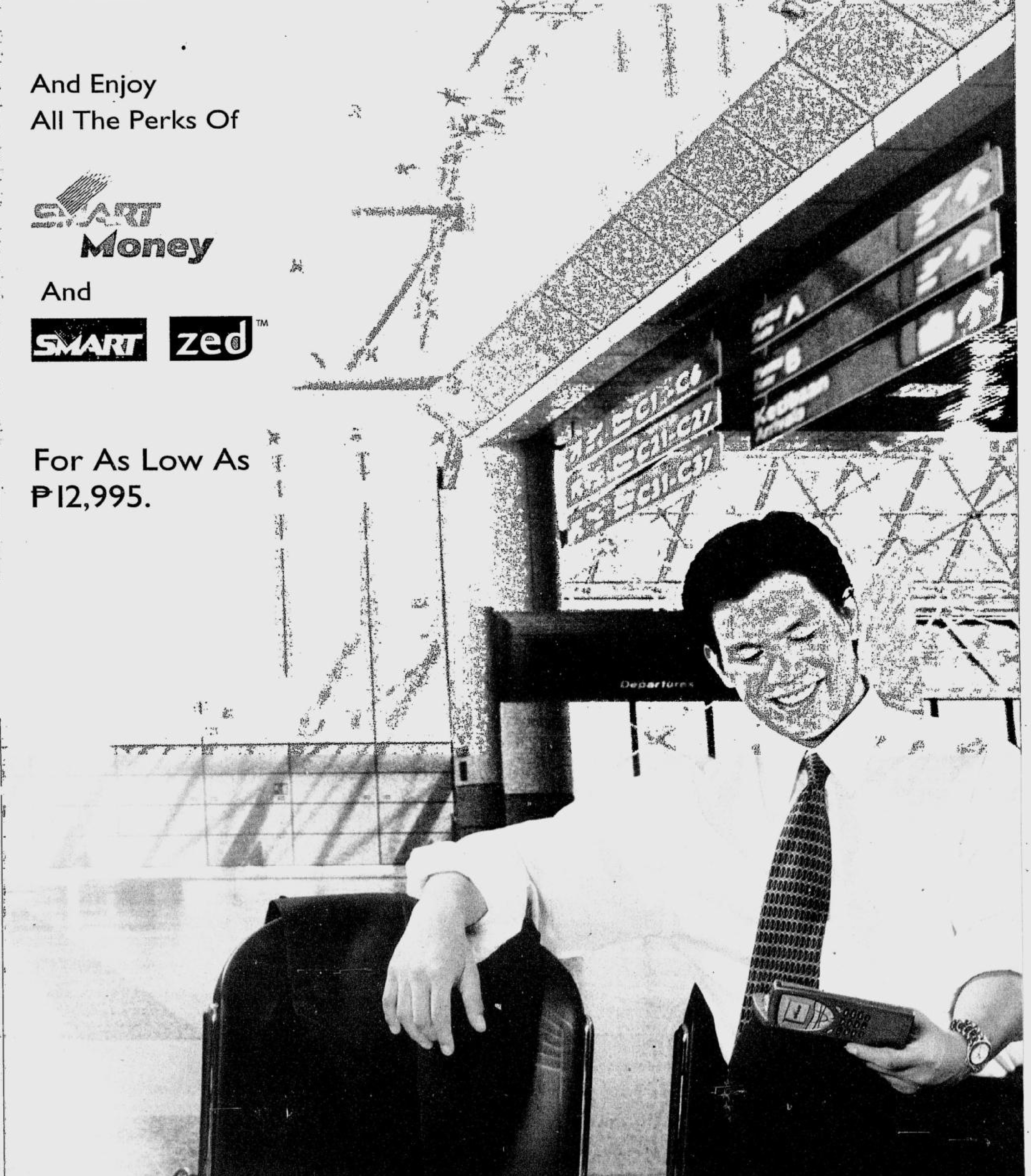

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Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor **EDMUND L. SICAM**, Associate Editor

CHAN. Long and hard climb to the top.

'Rush Hour 2' success could signal change for Chan

By Craig Reid

LOS ANGELES—After earning $164.7 million in its first two and half weeks, "Rush Hour 2" has put to rest any doubts about Jackie Chan's bankability in the United States and may give him the edge he needs to ease away from his "kung-fu" image.

RUSH/ p.C2

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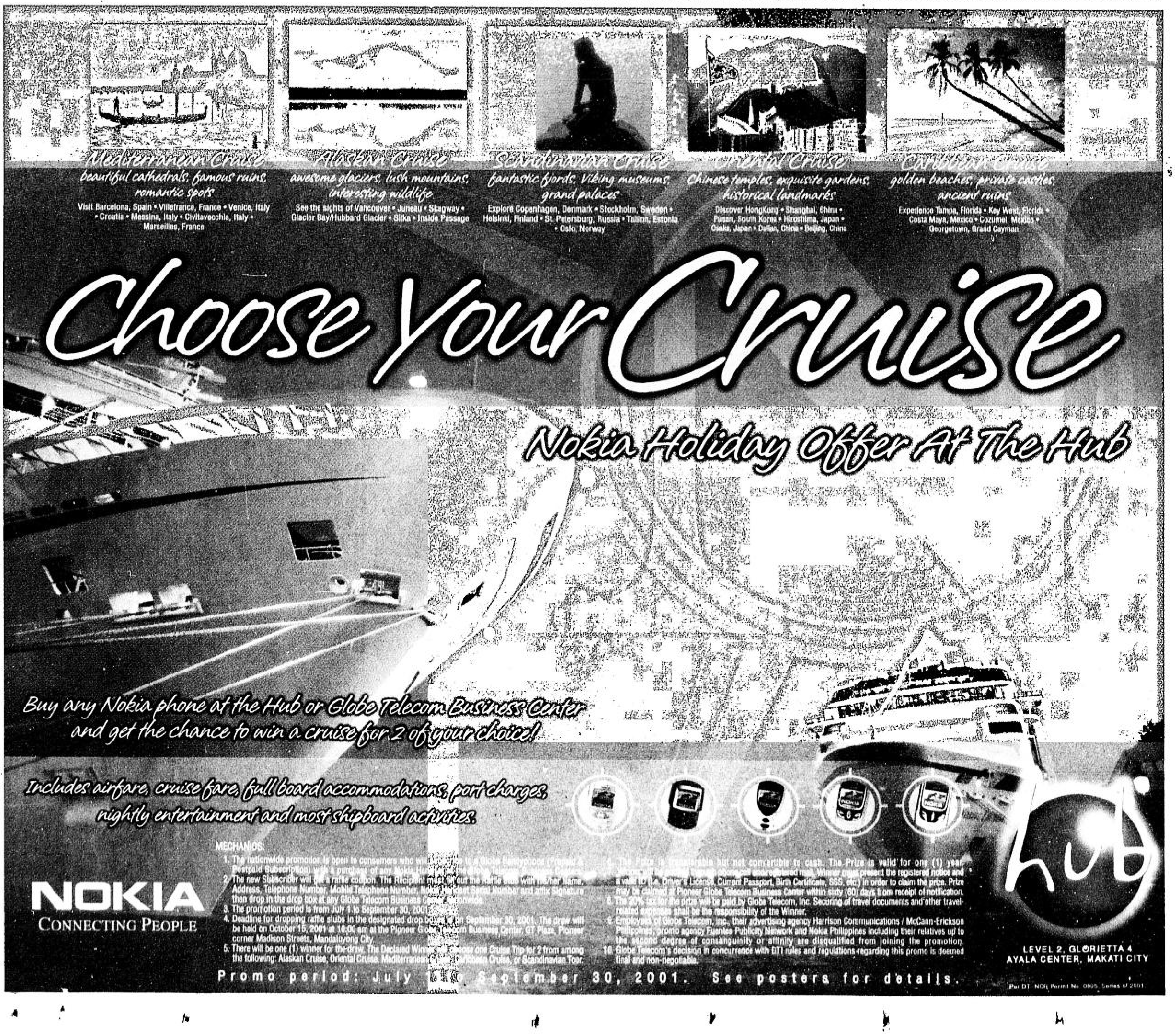

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'Rush Hour 2' success could signal change for Chan

(From page C1)

Earnings

"Rush Hour 2's" take in its first weekend was the fourth-best opener of all time and the largest August box-office debut ever. Its earnings after 17 days easily eclipse its predecessor's entire domestic total of $141 million.

But Chan's climb to the top has been long and hard, as he acknowledged to reporters ahead of the film's opening.

"This has taken me almost 20 years," Chan said in June. "I feel like before, maybe I am ready to give up and say no more US market anymore. It totally destroy my confidence. But now everybody send me scripts."

Following the spectacular opening, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer is reported to be putting the final touches on a deal for Chan to star in the update of the 1960 Jerry Lewis comedy "The Bellboy."

Although Chan has been attached to the project ever since MGM began development a year ago, the response to "Rush Hour 2" seemed to be all the push MGM needed.

"MGM took 'Rush Hour 2's' opening gross to heart and immediately gave 'Bellboy' the greenlight," producer Arnold Leibovit said in an interview.

Roots

But Leibovit, who is executive producer of the upcoming DreamWorks/Warner Brothers film "The Time Machine," pointed out Chan can't consider that carte blanche to break away from his roots.

"One of Jackie's challenges is the audience is used to him doing chop-sockey films and stunts," Leibovit said. "If he doesn't do that, then he's got to surprise the audience because success is measured by your last film."

Chan acknowledged he was well aware of the obstacles ahead. "In Asia, I can change anytime, but not in America yet," he said earlier this summer. "So now I slowly choose scripts with more drama, less action."

ONE critic writes that Chan played second fiddle to Chris Tucker (left) in their latest movie.

It's a crucial issue for Jackie Chan because the transition from daredevil comedian to dramatic actor has become not just an intelligent career plan but a physical necessity.

Even filmgoers who are not Jackie Chan fans know that Chan does his own stunts. Out-takes that are a regular feature of his films show stunts gone awry.

Stunt accident

In the 30 years Chan has been doing action films, he has broken almost every bone in his body and nearly died during a stunt accident while filming "Armor of the Gods" (1986).

Chan has been a fixture on the Hong Kong film scene—an industry dominated by "kung-fu" films—for over 20 years, and created a whole new genre of action movies when Hong Kong film was mired in copycat mentality.

Film critics

Although fan reviews on the Internet have backed their hero in "Rush Hour 2," film critics have not been so supportive.

The Hollywood Reporter wrote that Chan plays a low-key second fiddle to Chris Tucker and that his action sequences are geriatric compared to Jet Li's in "Kiss of the Dragon."

But whatever the critics say, the "Rush Hour 2" experience has been a personal success for Chan, both at the box office and in the studio. *Reuters*

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Julie Andrews makes smashing comeback in 'Princess Diaries'

JULIE Andrews (left) and Anne Hathaway are royals in "Princess Diaries."

By Nestor U. Torre

FANS of Julie Andrews will be delighted to know that the perky star of lively, lilting movie musicals like "The Sound of Music" and "Mary Poppins" has made a big comeback in the new film, "Princess Diaries."

This piece of show biz news is made even more welcome by Andrews' well-publicized medical problems last year, which almost silenced her famous singing voice.

Perfect fit

In "Princess Diaries," Andrews plays a role that's a perfect fit for her: she's formidable Queen Clarisse Renaldi of the fictive European principality of Genovia, who is bent on giving strict "princess lessons" to Mia, a shy San Francisco teenager who has just been thrown for a loop by the incredible discovery that she is actually a real-life, true-blue princess!

The news is fantastic—but Queen Clarisse is determined that it will not go to the teen princess' impressionable head. So, she's stricter than she should be, and Mia soon clashes with her.

Empowerment

But the film is more than just a brawling comedy about royal and inter-generational conflicts. In between the laughs, it has some things to say about love and responsibility, and about women's wish-fulfillment and empowerment.

When the project came to its casting phase director Garry Marshall had to choose from literally thousands of young actresses before he decided on Anne Hathaway to play Mia. For the role of Queen Clarisse, however, Marshall had only one choice: Julie Andrews!

Marshall explains that, like many people, he's been a fan of Ms Andrews, and knew that she could make Queen Clarisse come alive onscreen more definitely and delightfully than anybody else.

Really funny

"She is just a talented artist," he gushes. "She did great work and she is really funny. She knows where the jokes are and she's one of the great reactors of all time. The English language was written for her—I just love listening to her!"

It turns out that Andrews has also been following Marshall's directing career through the years and was so impressed that she wished she could work with him. When he finally popped the question, of course, she could hardly wait for him to come to the end of his pitch before she readily agreed to play Queen Clarisse.

Andrews shares that she admires Marshall's work because "I have always connected with the humor and layers of character in his films. He does it beautifully—it's all of the tiny details that make you smile and appreciate what he does.

Very generous

"And he's very generous. He allows so much input from his actors that you feel you've really contributed to the movie!"

Audience find "Princess Diaries" appealing because it's an update on the fairytales of old. Although it's part fantasy, Marshall has taken care to ground the film and its characters in reality, and hard-nosed modern-day viewers relate to that very well, indeed.

"Princess Diaries" is produced by Walt Disney Pictures, so making the movie was like coming home for Andrews, who made her film debut in the same studio's "Mary Poppins," way back in the '60s.

Breezy

For her breezy and tuneful performance in that magical film, she was honored by the British Academy and the New York Film Critics Circle, and was also nominated for a best actress Oscar.

She got other Oscar nominations for her performance in "The Sound of Music" and "Victor/ Victoria," *and* a Golden Globe Award for her work on the latter film.

What else has kept Julie Andrews busy this past year? She starred in the film version of Noel Coward's "Relative Values" and played herself in a cameo appearance in "Unconditional Love," starring Rupert Everett.

Children's books

She is the author of several children's books, like perennial best sellers "The Last of the Real Great Whangdoodles" and "Mandy," and last year's "Little Bo." With her daughter Emma Walton, she has also authored the successful "Dumpy" series of children's books.

Among her philanthropic and charitable activities is her role as Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

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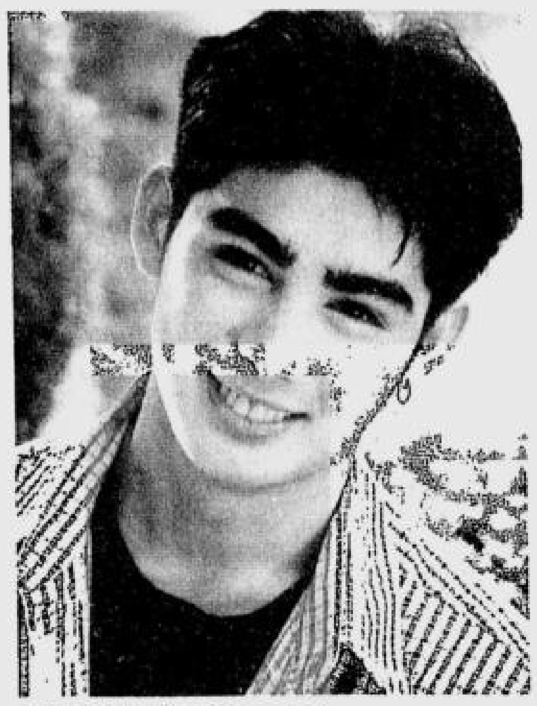
TWO FOR THE SHOW

Danilo Barrios has movie stardom in sight

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

TWO years ago, Danilo Barrios passed the auditions for the Streetboys and replaced Spencer Reyes when he joined the dance group. His boyish appeal made his entry into films easy.


BARRIOS. Boyish appeal.

Danilo attracted a lot of attention in Regal's 2000 Metro Filmfest entry, "Spirit Warriors" but he admitted at the time that his acting skills still needed polishing. He tries to improve his craft in the daily soap opera, "Sa Dulo Ng Walang Hanggan."

He idolizes Christopher de Leon, Aga Muhlach, Lorna Tolentino and Vilma Santos. He dreams of winning acting awards someday.

He claims that he wasn't much of a dancer before he joined the Streetboys. "*Hindi ko akalaing matatanggap ako sa* Streetboys kasi *pa*-tweetums dancing *lang ako noon.* I didn't have any technique, I just repeated all the steps, *parang yung sayaw lang sa* party."

He describes himself as a funny, down-to-earth, hard-working fellow. However, James Blanco and Cogie Domingo (his co-stars in "Cool Dudes, 24/7") insist that Danilo is a livewire.

"*Nagkukulitan kami.* We treat each other like brothers. *Iba na ang mundo namin kapag hindi kami magkakasama,*" Danilo says.

Danilo wants to avoid any comparisons with the Guwapings (composed of Mark Anthony Fernandez, Eric Fructuoso and Jomari Yllana) because he wants to establish his own identity and style.

Sweet, understanding and dark-skinned girls attract him, though he confesses that he has a huge crush on Liv Tyler. "I'd be the happiest man in the world if I could talk to her. I'd ask her about anything and everything, her likes and dislikes," Danilo grins.

'I'll see if she also likes the same things as I do. I like bowling, table tennis, dancing, watching VCDs, sleeping and eating."

Robbie Williams deserves King of Pop title

There's no stopping UK singing superstar Robbie Williams. We made sure we didn't miss his highly publicized, sell-out Manchester concert on HBO recently and the new King of Pop didn't fail us.

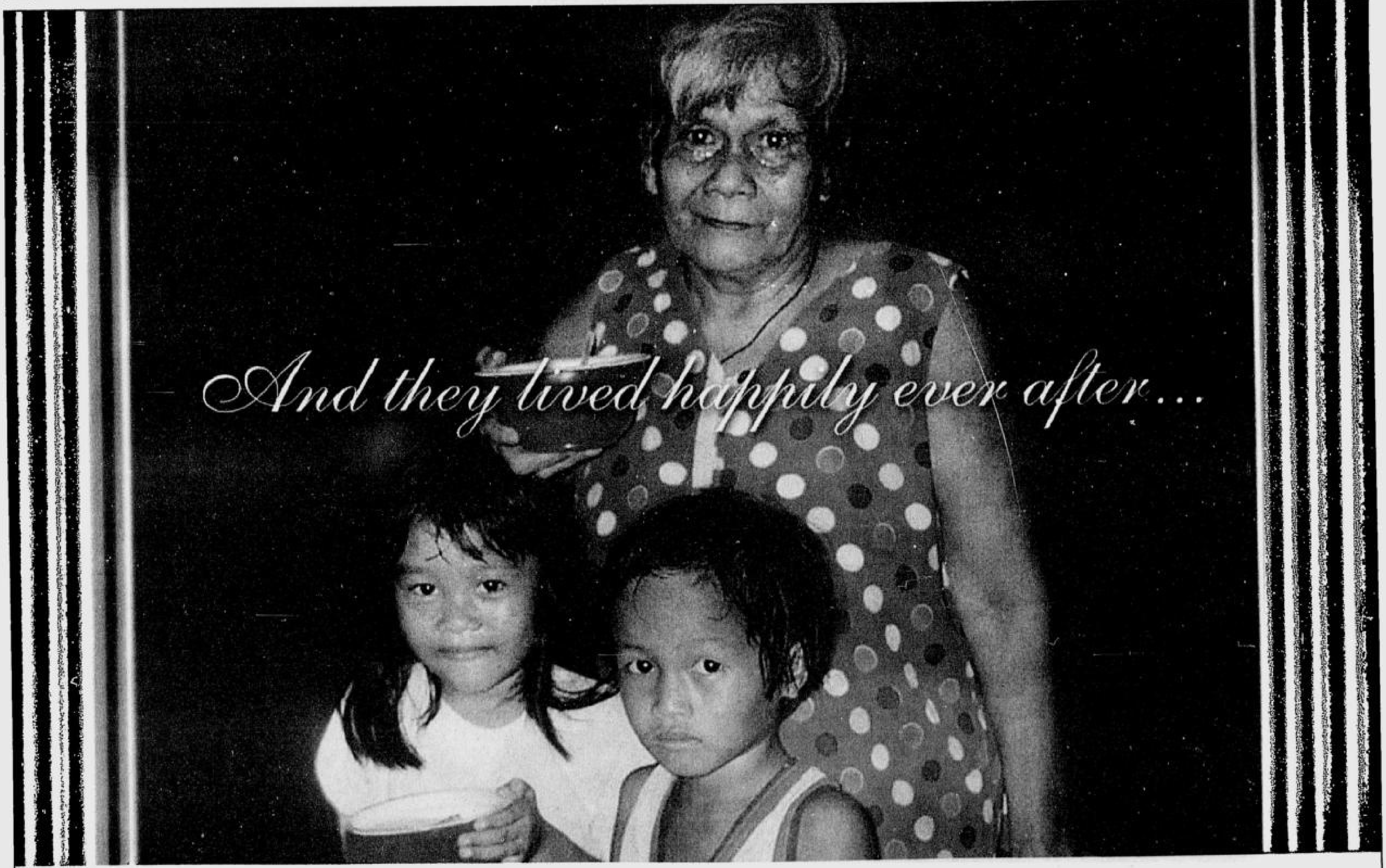
Yes, Williams deserves the title that was bestowed to him by snooty British music critics and although he told us when we interviewed him in Singapore that titles do not matter to him, there is no denying that the new pop king is sitting high on his throne.

When Williams performs, you watch in awe. He isn't only a charming entertainer, but he also sings with clarity and vocal consistency. Unlike others who shout at the top of their voices when they sing before a jam-packed crowd, Williams make sure his voice soars and finds its way to the bleachers.

Throughout most of the concert, the audience went wild and sang with him, specially with the song "She's the One," but he brought the house down when he performed his controversial "Rock DJ," minus the signature striptease act for a change.

US critics feel that someone from the UK cannot be conferred the highly esteemed King of Pop title, but many of Williams' worldwide fans think otherwise. Once the bad boy of UK pop, he has reinvented himself, angst and all, into the music world's most successful male icon of the moment.

DANILO/p.C5


And they lived happily ever after...

Here's a happy ending from Louie's THX.

Since 1994, Louie's THX Cinema has been a pioneer in raising the standards of movie exhibition in the Philippines. With the theater as its main funding arm, the Laurel-Rufino-Prieto (LRP) Foundation has succeeded in raising funds to support its various noteworthy charities including:

- Providing education for the underprivileged through the Sisters of Mary (Girls Town & Boys Town) and the Mother Rosa Foundation (Assumpta Technical School)
- Promoting healthcare for the needy (Ospital ng Makati)
- Promoting excellence in Film (Pelikula : A Journal of Philippine Cinema)

With its donation fund in place, the Foundation has decided to focus primarily on its beneficiaries. **And so August 31, 2001 will see the final curtain call of the most pioneering and memorable movie theater in the country, Louie's THX Cinema.**

On behalf of the beneficiaries of the LRP Foundation, we would like to thank all our members and friends for the support given us through the years. With your help, Louie's THX Cinema has changed not just the way we watch movies, but the lives of those around us.

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LOUIE'S CINEMA THX LRP

Danilo Barrios . . .

(From page C4)

Chad Borja is Kuh's favorite

If there is one singer who deserves the survivor tag, it's no other than Chad Borja. After 10 years in the business, and after courageously winning his bout against thyroid cancer, Chad continues to do well in the music business.

Chad has been hand-picked by premier songstress Kuh Ledesma to be her lone male guest in tonight's "Kuh Sings Streisand" concert at the Music Museum, and their wonderful rapport on stage has received glowing reviews from those who have seen them in their past performances together.

Chad takes his music seriously, always trying to learn something new. Recently, he flew to Singapore to take part in the World Jazz Festival where he met the best jazz and R&B artists.

He is scheduled to fly to Taipei soon for another music event and his "Show Me The Way" album under Warner Music remains the album to beat in terms of technical and vocal excellence.

Cheche Lazaro paints a beautiful Brunei

We caught "Cheche Lazaro Presents" late Sunday evening on Channel 7 and we were taken on a magical journey to the land of abundance and prosperity, Brunei.

In the episode, the oil-rich nation was presented to us in its many interesting facets, as Lazaro and her crew went from palaces of worship to vast, flourishing forest reserves, so different from the common notion that Brunei is a barren desert, like some oil-producing Arab countries.

'The Correspondents' scores again

Channel 2's "The Correspondents" is indeed leaving the competition behind. Once more, we were enthralled by how fast the program delivered the freshest current affairs topics.

In its most recent episode, Anne Torres joined a group of ordinary "*inuman*" buddies and immersed herself in the conversation of this group about the current senate inquiry circus. What transpired was the most spontaneous and honest exchange we've heard on this over-hyped political exercise.

We also take our hats off to Patrick Paez for his no-holds-barred report on the Manor Hotel fire.

Jim Libiran also presented a fearless segment about the alleged connivance of the military and rebel groups, with money and greed as their links to each other.

Vote for Kyla

LAZARO. Magical journey.

For the forthcoming MTV Southeast Asia Viewers' Choice Awards, the Philippines will be represented by talented newcomer Kyla, who scored an upset over some biggies a few months back when she won the local MTV Best Video award for the video on her single, "Hanggang Ngayon."

Kyla's bid to win this top plum will be strengthened when you fax your votes to 6335694, or go online at www.mtvasia.com, or by filling in ballots at Tower, Music One and Odyssey Records.

Feedback

From Arch. Gabbie Cascante of Makati City: "You wrote in your Aug. 18 column about Joey G's latest stint at the Captain's Bar at Mandarin Oriental, which was a hit. You also wrote that Jon Santos 'even prepared theme songs for each character and almost stole the show as he spoofed Side A's 'Tuloy Pa Rin' to the tune of 'Aawitan Kita.'

"With all due respect to the original composers of the song, 'Tuloy Pa Rin' was written and recorded by the group Labuyo in the mid-'70s. Mon Espia and Janu Villanueva wrote the song 'Tuloy Pa Rin' and produced a demo version of the song to be sent to radio stations.

"Later on, as the song earned its share of popularity, the group recorded it with Boy Katindig playing the keyboards in the commercial version. It was pressed as a 45-rpm record and produced in a limited number with 'Batugan' on the flip side.

"Side A did a remake of the same song with variations to fit their own style. I got the impression from what you wrote that it was Side A who wrote and recorded the song. Maybe it should have been written as 'Side A's version of 'Tuloy Pa Rin.'"

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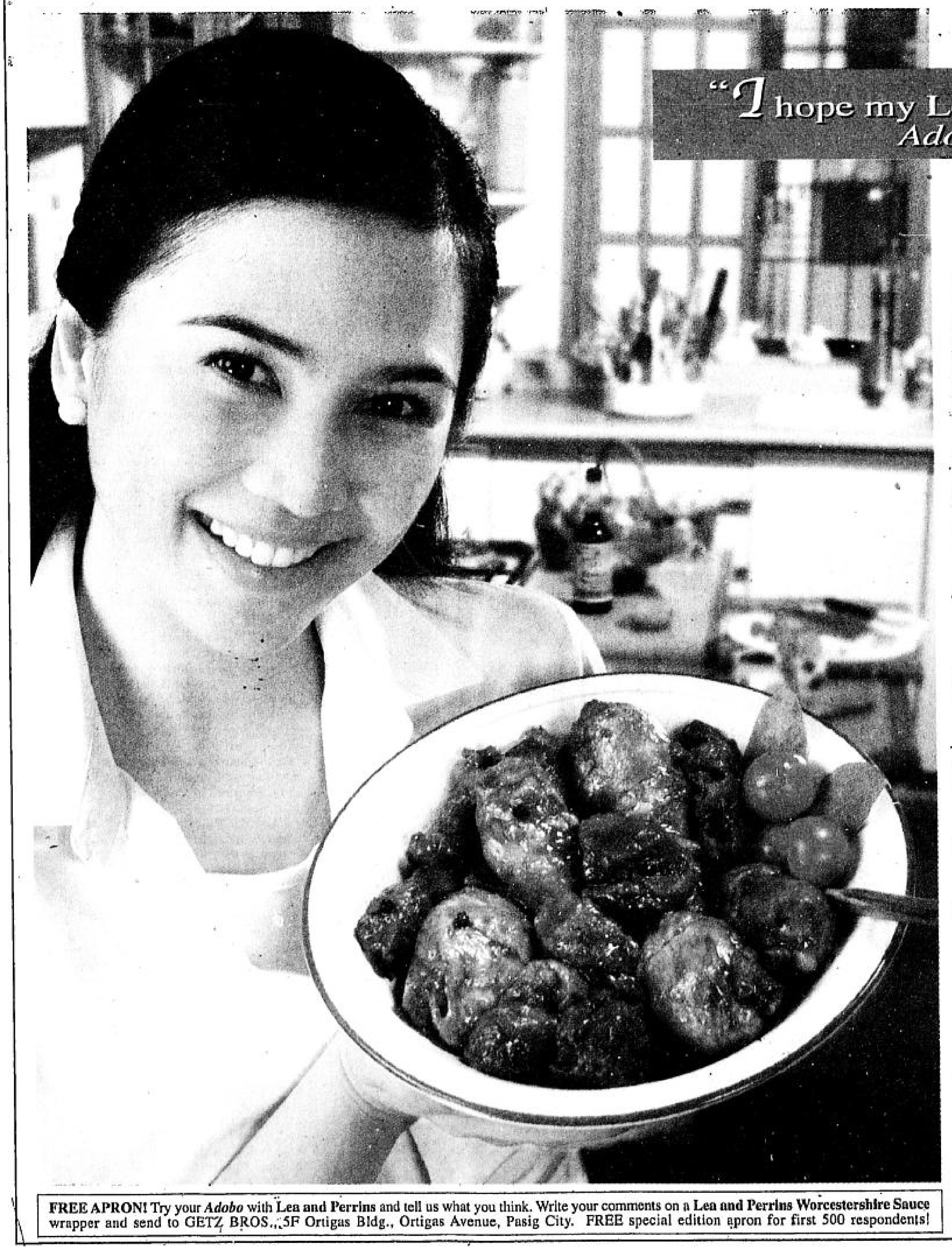
"I hope my Lola forgives me, but this *Adobo* recipe is so much better!"

Mrs. Nina Yap
Pre-school Teacher, Mother

" I've always used my Lola's *Adobo* recipe which is very good. But then, I stumbled upon a kitchen gold mine -- *Adobo* with **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce!** *Ang sarap!* Just a tablespoon and you have the flavor and zest that make your *Adobo* **the best tasting -- ever!** And now, my family will never have *Adobo* in any other way.

Come to think of it, it's still my Lola's recipe -- with a delightful twist: **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.** I'm sure she'll be so proud of me!"

Chicken Pork Adobo *a la Lea and Perrins*

Ingredients:

1/2 kilo pork liempo, cut into large cubes
1/2 kilo fresh chicken, cut up in pieces
2 cloves macerated garlic
1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
2-3 pieces bay leaves
1/2 cup native vinegar
1 cup soup stock or water
2 tbsps. soy sauce
1 tbsp. ***Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce***

Procedure:

Marinate chicken and pork in a mixture of soy sauce, garlic, peppercorns, bay leaves, vinegar and Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Do not stir and let stand for 10 minutes.

Put the whole marinated mixture in a saucepan over medium heat and cook without stirring. Let it boil first then stir. Simmer until chicken is done and some sauce had evaporated.

Take out the chicken and continue simmering. Add soup stock until pork is tender to the touch and sauce is beginning to thicken.

Put back the chicken and finish cooking over low heat until pork begins to shed some fat and the chicken becomes brown.

Remove from fire, take out the bay leaves and serve hot.

Makes 4-5 servings.

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ALBUM REVIEWS

'Whoa Nelly,' 'Platinum Collection' are cool winners

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

Whoa Nelly
Nelly Furtado
MCA Universal Music

THIS album is a cool winner because it has an eclectic mix of pop, R & B, hip-hop, Latin flavor and Portuguese influence. The music is so diverse, that it can satisfy everyone's musical tastes.

Nelly Furtado's style varies in each song but her distinctive voice still shines through.

Nelly is a gifted songwriter. She immerses herself totally in her music. Her songs might come across as lightweight but, upon closer inspection, they have depth, wisdom and sincerity.

Secret journal

Her songs "Legend" and "Turn Off the Light" seem like entries in a secret journal, always imparting a personal insight, which may be jaded or innocent at times. When you listen closely, the melody and lyrics pull you in because these songs feel real.

"Hey Man" and "S--t on the Road" are songs about playing games in an intense, romantic relationship. It's about the constant "little tests" lovers subject themselves to, in order to determine the strength of their relationship. It's a subtle reminder that partners should not be ambivalent and instead reveal their real selves, so they can act like authentic mirrors of each other.

"Baby Girl" depicts boredom in relationships. They have been together for a long time and the man has clearly established his expectations. He wants her to be submissive and sweet all the time, but she feels that she's being taken for granted and wants him to change.

Lyrics

The lyrics, "That I am the thing that revolves around him" and "I don't wanna be your baby girl, I wanna be what's best for me" show her beginning to discover herself, her needs, her independence. She wants her boyfriend to change along with her, to prevent the romance from fizzling out.

"Scared of You" is about a girl breaking up with her boyfriend because of poor self-esteem. She treats him badly because she wants to feel superior. She walks out on him and lets him go because she knows that he'll be a better person without her.

The Platinum Collection
Side A
Warner Music Phils

Hearing Side A's old, timeless hits is always a welcome treat. It's a great buy for Pinoys abroad who experience occasional homesickness. They don't have the luxury and opportunity of collecting most of Side A's albums, so putting all the best songs together in one album is a good compromise.

It's amazing how Side A can maintain a positive attitude about life and love, even if they've done and written countless ballads and love songs over the years.

"So Many Questions" and "Forevermore" still evoke memories of romance and true love. Their syrupy lyrics and sentimental melodies still tug at heartstrings, even if you've heard these songs a zillion times.

Love and yearning

"Let the Pain Remain" and "By Your Side" can bring out the "hopeless romantic" side of any listener. It's emotional but laid-back and full of love and yearning.

"Tell Me," "Umagang Kay Ganda," "Anak," and "Ang Aking Awitin" are remakes but Side A make them as their own. These songs are given new flavor, pep and texture because Side A injects its own style and innovation—old songs with a new twist to attract the younger, hip listeners.

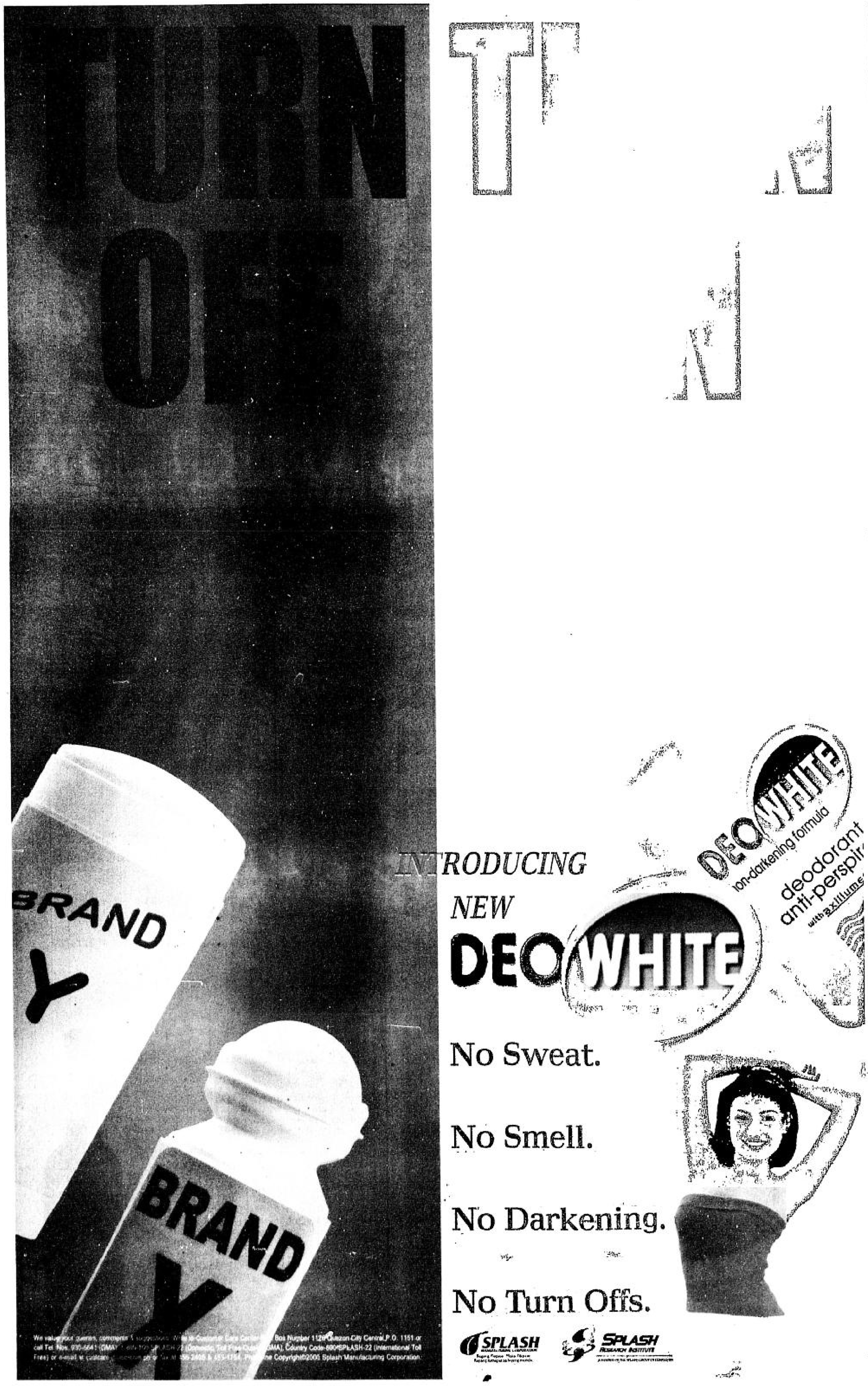
Frustrations

"If Only" appears to be a classic sentimental tune, but "Set Up Free" is the ultimate break-up song. The lyrics can milk all your frustrations and heartaches 'til you can't cry anymore. It imparts emotional pain without being overbearing. It shows the sense of sacrifice one must go through without being melodramatic.

This album has simple tunes that alternately sound happy, positive, sad and lonely, but it's still every bit as sincere as their other albums. A must-buy for love song and ballad addicts.

THE PLATINUM COLLECTION

"THE PLATINUM COLLECTION." Positive attitude about life and love.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LARANAS. Wanted to be an actor.

Yam Laranas' artistic inclinations find unity in film

BY JOCELYN VALLE

WHEN Yam Laranas, 32, was in high school, he was into a lot of things: photography, theater, dance, visual arts, music and writing. He told his mom that he would incorporate all these disciplines in one art form. His mom was doubtful.

It was only when "Balahibong Pusa" was shown in theaters that Ms Laranas understood what her son told her then.

Actor

Then again, Yam hadn't discovered filmmaking that time. In 1987, he went to Manila to become an actor. He tried to join an acting workshop but didn't make the cut. It broke his heart. "*Para akong pinagsakluban ng langit at lupa,*" he recalls, shaking his head.

But as they say, when God closes a door, He opens a window. While browsing through a newspaper, Yam saw an ad for a filmmaking scholarship at Mowelfund. He still wasn't interested in becoming a director, though, so he opted to study cinematography instead, since he'd done some photography.

Yam stayed with Mowelfund for six years, finishing all the courses that the center offered. It was also here that he met Eisenstein, Bergman, Renoir and company through those masters' filmed masterpieces. He finally got a clearer picture of the cinematic art.

Rather than go into the entertainment industry, Yam chose to put into practice what he learned in the advertising world. Since 1992, he's been megging TV ads. And he continues to do so, despite his workload at Viva that includes directing and doing consultancy jobs for film and music productions.

Story

And when he makes a movie, Yam doesn't only call the shots, he likewise creates the story, the screenplay and the cinematography. He also helps in the musical scoring and in the poster's design. In short, the realization of his boyhood dream.

Yam considers his second feature, "Radyo," a dream project, too. When he presented the idea to Vic del Rosario, Viva's bigwig readily gave him the go signal. Yam remembers Del Rosario telling him that it was indeed risky to produce something like "Radyo," which Yam describes as a dark comedy with an element of suspense.

But del Rosario, says the young director felt strongly about the material. Anyway, if it didn't make money at the tills, they thought, the company would still generate income from TV and cable rights and sales of videocassettes, VCDs and DVDs.

Viva signed up two of the hottest young stars around, Rufa Mae Quinto and Jeffrey Quizon, and let Yam do his thing. Heartened, the young filmmaker was able to finish shooting in 18 days.

It wasn't hard to accomplish, he avers, because he'd completed the movie in his mind long before the cameras started grinding. The moment he heard one of the cuts in Blakdyak's album a few years ago, Yam got his story. (This was before del Rosario gave him his first break, "Balahibong Pusa.")

He started listening to AM radio until he was able to flesh out the lead character played by Rufa Mae. He got filmmaker Jon Red, a friend since his Mowelfund days, to write the screenplay with him.

"The movie starts and ends with the story," he explains. "Then the treatment follows." His experience with "Balahibong Pusa" reminded him of this cardinal rule. He only hopes that he was able to achieve this in "Radyo."

Just the same, for his next projects, Yam vows to work harder to have a clearer and more detailed story. "*Sana rin,* more budget," he quips. "And better sound quality."

Best local TV sitcoms and comedy shows singled out

BY NOELANI TORRE

NEPOMUCENO. Master impersonator.

FILIPINOS have always doted on humor. We just love to laugh—at ourselves, our neighbors (well, mostly at our neighbors), and at the various problems that beset us. We'd laugh life off if we could!

It follows then that the denizens of the entertainment industry would be quick to make use of this particular characteristic.

Thus, our television screens abound with sitcoms and comedy shows of various lengths and flavors, all designed to keep us laughing and watching.

Jokes

There is no quicker way to make a buck and to gather an audience than to tell jokes and act out gags. It is our comedy movies that sell the most tickets, apart from the sex flicks, of course. It isn't surprising, really, given the bleak situation we find ourselves in. Laughter is merely our coping mechanism.

Still, that doesn't mean that we don't face our problems at all. We do, just not in the same way that other people would. We asked several avid fans of sitcoms and comedy shows which one they thought was the best of the lot.

Of our six respondents, three of them voted for "Eto Na ang Susunod na Kabanata," two for "Ispup," and one for "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis."

"Eto Na . . ." then would be the best sitcom, but it's noteworthy that it shares a lot of features with "Ispup," especially the fact that they are both based on real, mostly political, situations. It looks like Filipinos are finally taking their humor seriously! Our respondents' views in detail:

Adversity

"'Eto Na ang Susunod na Kabanata.' Because they can make fun of serious situations, and in the face of adversity, too.

"They also inform the public in a funny way about relevant issues. They mock our highest officials—and they get away with it!

"It shows the true Filipino way of dealing with problems—despite the many calamities and disasters we face, we can still afford to laugh!"—***Aideer Ching, Diliman, Quezon City***

"'Ispup.' It's satirical, and effectively so. *Naipapakita nila ang* current issues and problems *na hinaharap ng bansa ngayon, pero* in a comical way. In a sense, *nababawasan yung* impact, *pero* positively. '*Di mabigat, pero nakaka*-tackle *ng mga seryosong bagay.*

"*Ayon sa* teacher *ko sa* Psychology 108, *mahilig talaga sa* humor *ang Pinoy*. Through humor we can deal with our problems. And I believe that jokes are half-meant.

"*Magaling sina* Willie Nepomuceno, Jon Santos, at Rufa Mae Quinto. *Kuhang-kuha nila ang mga taong ginagaya nila, kaya lalong nakakatawa.* If we can't do much about fools in government, at least we can laugh at them!"—***Johann Ivan Reyes, Alabang***

Drama anthologies

"'Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis.'—because Maricel Soriano is in it. '*Yun lang*. No, seriously, I truly enjoy watching her. It's because I grew up in the '80s when she was still doing comedy, before she started all those drama anthologies.

"It's good that she went back to her 'roots,' because I really believe that she's at her best in comedy. When I get to watch television, this is the show I usually check out first."—***Hermes Solina, Paranaque***

"'Eto Na ang Susunod na Kabanata.' Because it mirrors the current political situation of the country. It deals with a serious topic in a funny way, and this makes the topic easier to digest.

"Everything's just so depressing, all the blunders that our 'leaders' keep on making, and a show like this lightens things up. When I get really irritated with the situation, I make sure to watch this show, so I feel better.

"It puts a certain perspective on things. And it's appropriate that we make fun of those people because they really are funny in their own right, if you think about it."—***Michelle Anne Victor, Baguio City***

Impersonation

"'Ispup.' I just love Willie Nepomuceno. Watch out, anyone he decides to spoof, because he can really copy you, right down to how you hold your glass, your head, your… *basta*! He's very, very good. He never fails to make me laugh. His Erap impersonations are legendary.

"Jon Santos is also good, especially as Armida Siguion-Reyna and Miriam Defensor-Santiago. I used to get a stitch in my side whenever he started that 'Aawitan Kita' portion. *Sayang*, Armida's no longer the head of MTRCB.

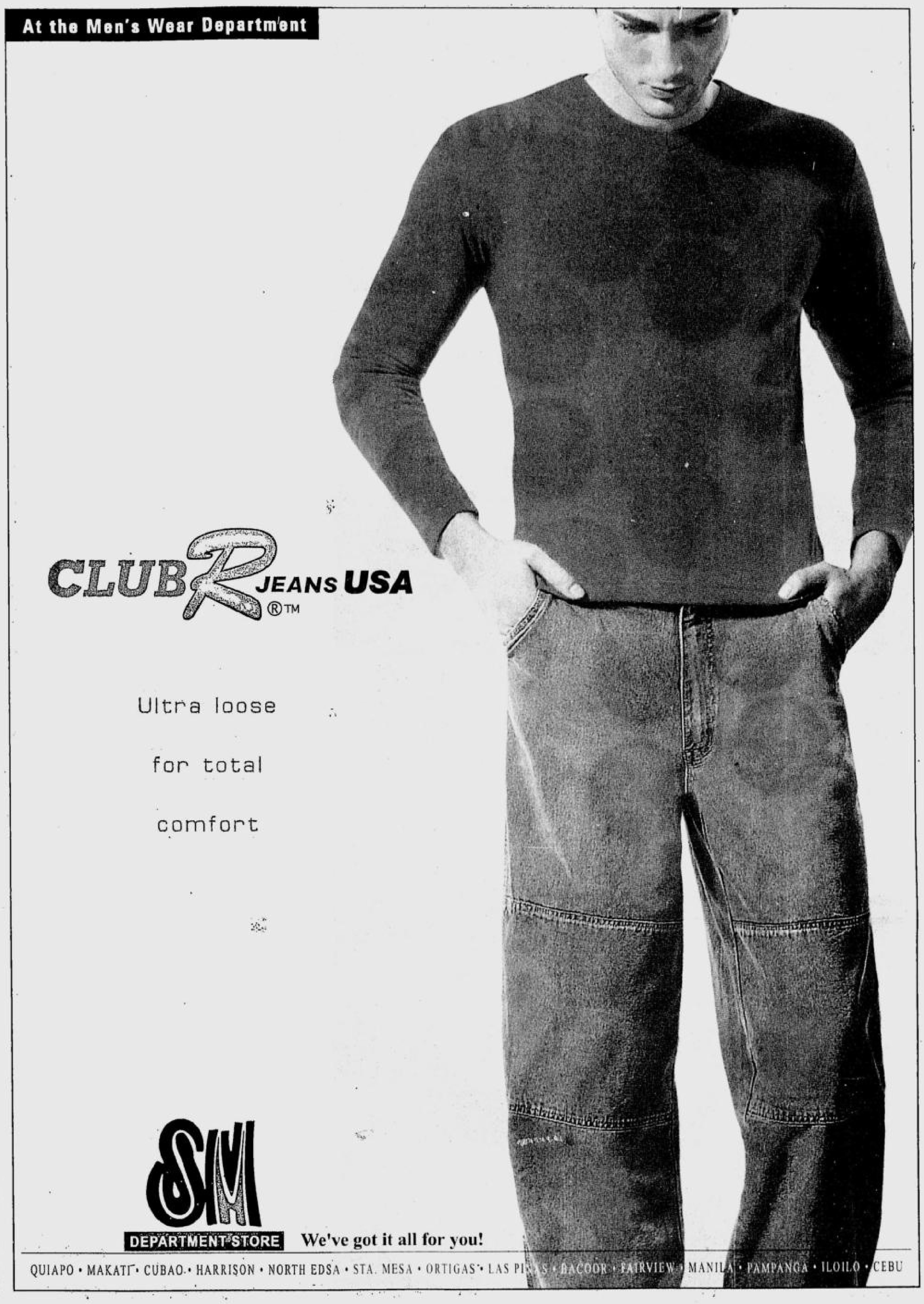
"It's fun watching our most 'prominent' people being made fun of. They need to be taken down a peg or two!"—***Chris Reynaldo, Pasay City***

"'Eto Na ang Susunod na Kabanata.' *Inaabangan ko dati yung* 'Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata' *at nainis nga ako nung tinanggal nila. Kaya masaya ako nung binalik.*

"*Minsan kasi, kailangan mo na talagang pagtawanan na lang ang mga problema mo para hindi ka naman maloka, di ba?*

"*Gusto ko sina* Tessie Tomas *at* Nanette Inventor. *Magagaling silang komediyante, seryoso,* art *na talaga para sa kanila ang pagpapatawa.*

"*Minsan wala silang kongkretong taong ginagaya pero totoo pa rin ang labas. Kaya talagang nakakatawa, kasi alam mong may ganyan talagang mga tao. Alam mo, dito sa 'Pinas malalaman mo kung seryoso na talaga ang sitwasyon pag lalong dumadami ang mga patawa!*"—***Domingo Jimenez, Calamba, Laguna***



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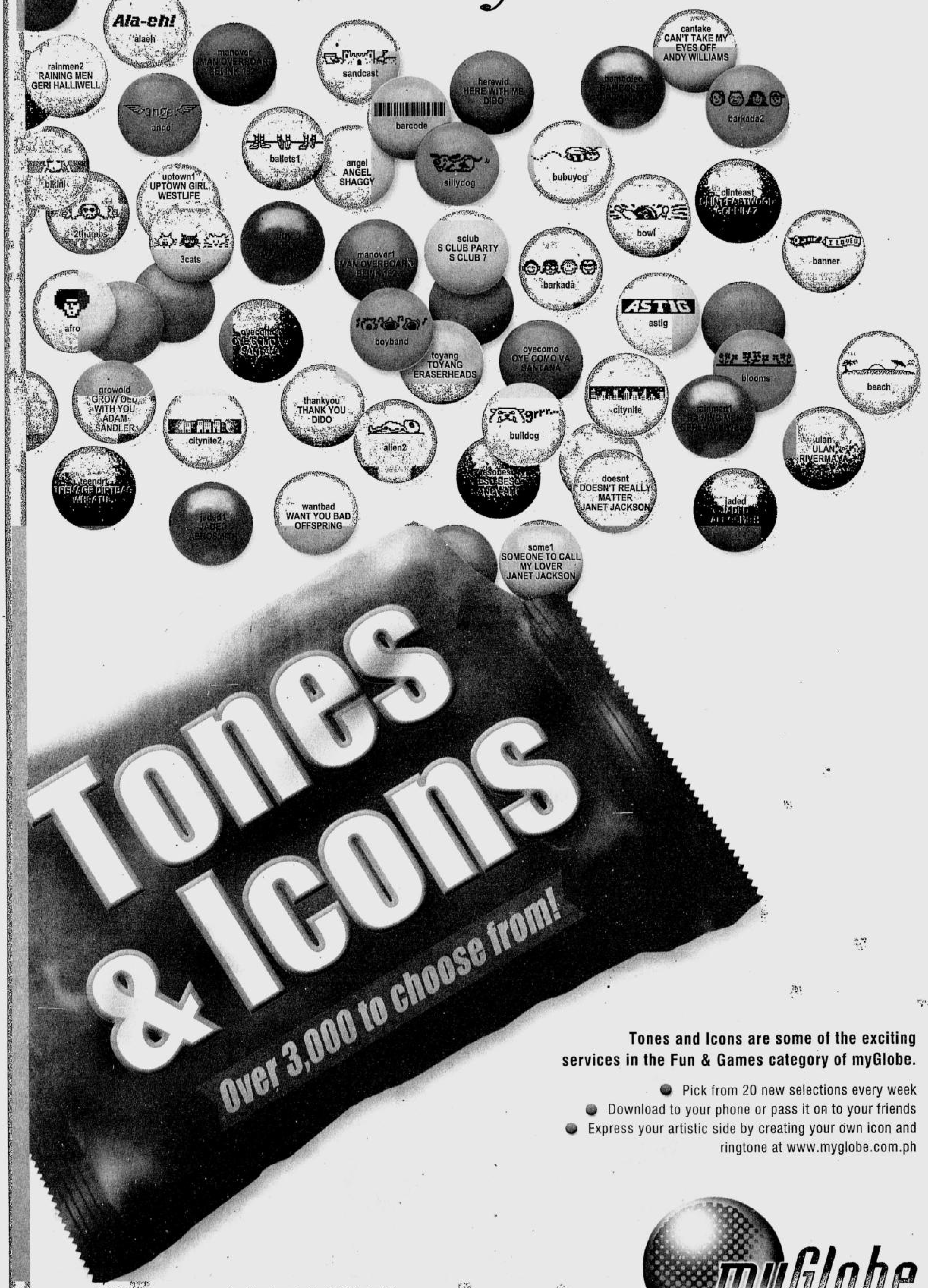
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Saturday SPECIAL

Janice and Gelli launch sister act on daytime TV

By Veron Dionisio

DONNY and Marie Osmond hosted a musical variety show for six years during their teens in the '70s. And quite recently, Dick Clark produced a talk show for them that lasted for a year, simply titled "Donny and Marie," (The show was cancelled early this year.) Lea and Gerard Salonga used to co-host a musical show with Ariel Ureta when they were kids.

JANICE/p.D5

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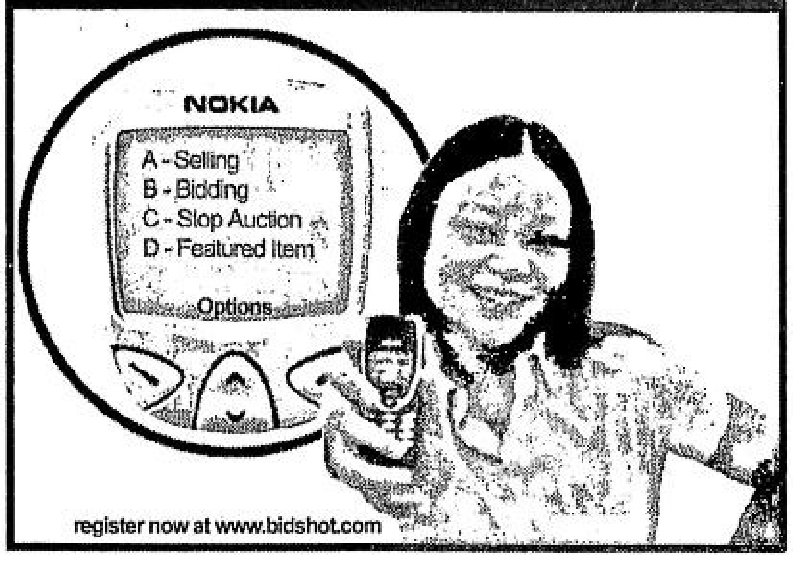
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AM/FM

Will Judy Ann Santos be the next Darna?

By Rito P. Asilo

WE HAD a ball listening to Atty. Billy Balbastro's radio program, "Showtime," aired over dzMM (9 to 10 p.m., 630 kHz on AM) last Saturday. The show is like a weekly round-up of the latest entertainment news that features the industry's latest concerns, more than just show biz gossip.

Good news

Billy announced upcoming features, like Ronnie Ricketts' sequel to "Mano-mano" with wife Mariz, which was good news for lovers of wholesome action movies.

He revealed that a movie company is cooking up a project based on Aiza Seguerra's "Pagdating ng Panahon," the quadruple platinum-selling album of the former child star. It was intended for newlyweds Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzalez but the new Mrs. Muhlach's "delicate" pregnancy has to take priority over an interesting movie concept, so Dingdong Dantes, originally tapped to play Aga's younger brother, takes over the lead, and romances movie darling Judy Ann Santos instead.

Superwoman

Speaking of Judy Ann, Billy also announced that Viva intends to revive Mars Ravelo's flying *Pinay* superwoman, "Darna," and that it's Judy Ann's turn to swallow the magic stone, with possibly Cogie Domingo as her leading man.

While it's true that Judy Ann now maintains a 115-pound figure, some people who are used to seeing an overweight Judy Ann can't help but snicker.

SANTOS. Her turn to swallow the magic stone.

So we suggest that she watches her weight until after shooting wraps up, so she doesn't get the same brickbats that Sharon did when the megastar donned the red costume more than 10 years ago in Herbert Bautista and Edu Manzano's "Captain Barbell."

Billy even dispenses show biz trivia: Why do we call drama serials "soap operas"? The answer: television melodramas used to have soaps, like Tide, as their main sponsors.

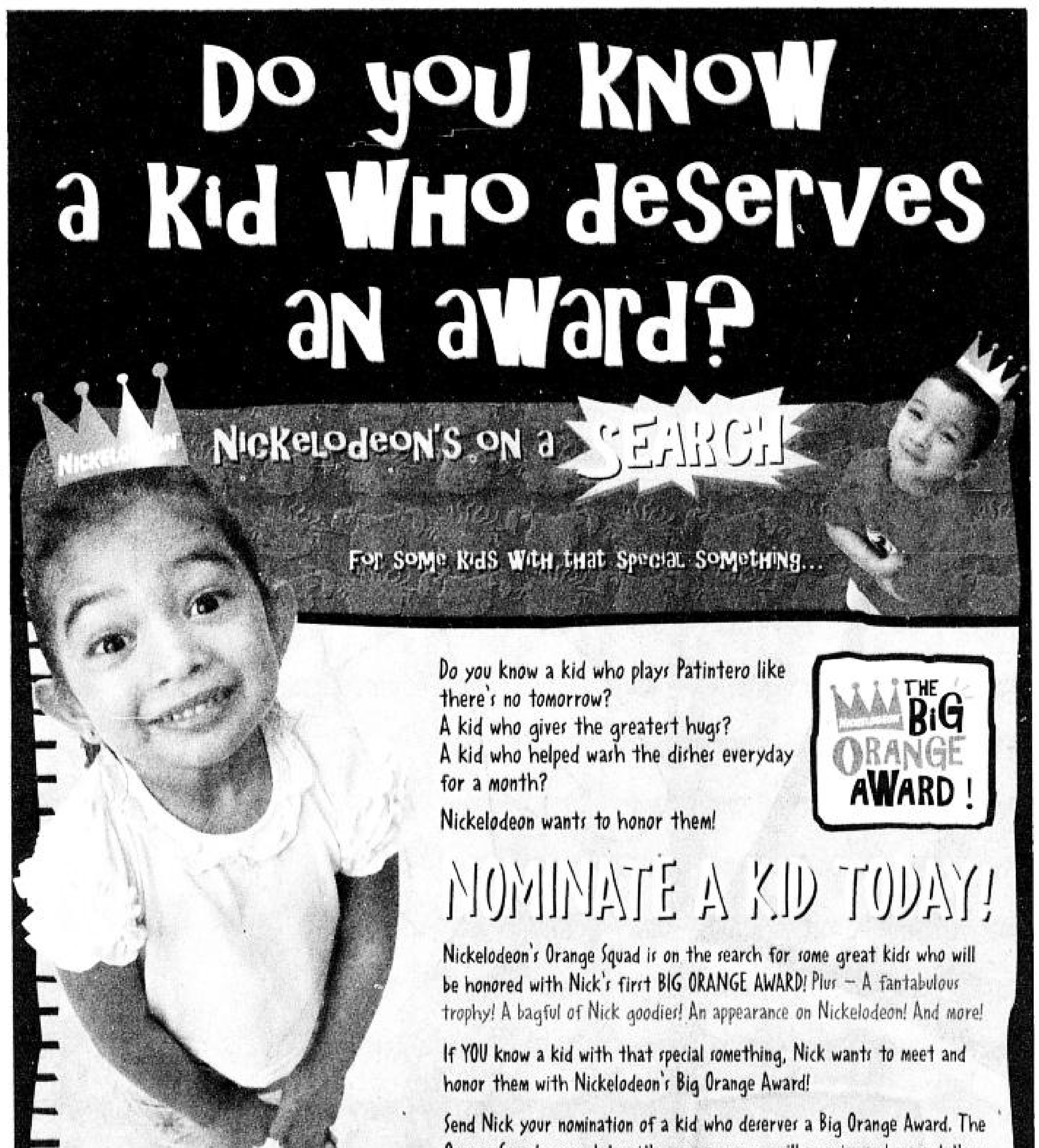
Campaign sorties

Other interesting news from "Showtime": Vilma Santos' "Dekada '70," another highly anticipated work from Lualhati Bautista ("Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?") which started shooting late last year but had to stop during the elections to accommodate Mayor Vilma's campaign sorties for herself and for husband Ralph, still has not resumed shooting. So director Chito Roño will do "Treasure of Yamashita," with Danilo Barrios and the Streetboys, first.

Lav Diaz's "Batang West Side" has a running time of more than four hours, and the director has no intention of shortening it (*a la* Kevin Costner?). It was also mentioned that Diaz wants his movie featured in an international festival, like Tikoy Aguiluz's annual Cinemanila Filmfest.

Thailand's Pattaya Film Festival is alloting six slots for the Philippines. The festival will be held in a tourist beach area that boasts of 300 hotels, 80,000 rooms and 12 cinemas. But do we have enough good films to represent us?

Ace director Laurice Guillen's follow-up to the highly-successful and multi-awarded "Tanging Yaman" is "American Adobo," formerly "Magic Adobo." The title refers to the migrant Filipino's favorite dish abroad. The movie, which stars Christopher de Leon, Dina Bonnevie, Cherry Pie Picache and Ricky Davao in another gay role, is set to open in November in the US.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TV or not TV

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

THERE was a time when show biz talk shows on TV were the rage. Everybody watched them because they didn't want to be left out of whatever transpired on the show biz talk shows the night before it became the following day's talking points at the office, coffeeshop, beauty parlor, school, etc.

Headlines

This is not the case anymore. People are no longer as interested in show biz news as they used to be. Nobody seems to care much that there's an assassination plot on Vilma Santos, or that the Pinay mother and German father of Matet de Leon want to meet her, or that Mystika pays for the services of gigolos. Before, this was the kind of news that merited screaming headlines.

Perhaps it is because of the drawn-out slump in the entire entertainment industry, or the lack of genuine superstars who can really ignite the excitement of fans, or that the public now finds the intrigue and gossip on the political front more fascinating.

I love show biz talk shows and I recently took some time out to take a hard look at them, to find out what's going on—specifically what's going wrong. My discoveries are quite interesting, to say the least:

1. There seems to be more emphasis now on style than on substance. Show biz talk show writers outdo each other in terms of presentation of concepts or creative approaches and handles, but they all basically tackle the same news. In other words, after you've seen one, you've seen them all. They just vary in their exposition techniques.

Prevalent

There are two kinds. One, you try to present as news something that is not newsworthy at all. Two, you rehash old news as something new. Both are quite prevalent on show biz talk shows these days.

But they have added a third: They invent something out of thin air about the private lives of movie stars. After they've aired the lie, they solicit the denial of the celebrity whose reputation they've already tarnished.

2. There are hardly any scoops coming out of show biz talk shows these days. It appears that print reporters are more resourceful and enterprising. Before, you first watched the news item reported on TV, and the print reporters picked them up the next day. Today, you read the news item first in tabloids and gossip columns before you watch the follow-up on the running story on TV.

Truth to tell, scoops are more excitingly told on TV than in print. There's the supreme advantage of visuals that make the news literally leap out of the screen, even without the reporter saying anything.

Less guilt

3. Today, you don't know for sure anymore who's telling the truth. I surmise this is because the bar on telling the truth has been lowered, and there's less guilt now in telling a lie. The question now is no longer whether the truth was told, but whether the lie was told well.

This is a commentary on the morals of our times. It's far easier to lie now than before. Some politicians lie and get away with it—so, why can't our stars?

4. Show biz news on TV these days is more "managed" than ever. TV talk shows have become a mere appendage of the promotional machines of movie producers who also own TV networks. They call it synergizing. This means: no news that has the potential of ruining the company's contract stars, unless it is to defend them from damaging news from other sources.

Moreover, today's talent managers are no longer just managers of talents—they have become managers of lives as well. In other words, they make a plan for the life of their ward and they will move heaven and hell not just to make this plan come true but also to knock down anything that will hinder its fruition.

Unsavory

Woe to the reporter who stumbles upon something true but unsavory about the private life of a star managed by a manager like this. He won't know what hit him. Some of these managers are so high and mighty that they believe they can dictate on talk show producers, TV network executives and other talent managers.

5. TV in the past was more real than the so-called reality TV nowadays. Before, it was very possible for show biz news to unfold before the very eyes of televiewers. Today, show biz news is sometimes *contrived* to appear like it is really happening live in the studio. Again, this can all be for promotional flash and gimmick—to fatten the stock of a favored talent.

Whenever I go to the provinces, the question often asked by ordinary folks is whether this star or that star is *mabait ba o masungit*. I reply as honestly as I can—which, I found out, isn't quite easy. Because, in the eyes of their fans, movie stars are either *mabait* or *masungit* depending on how they have been packaged by their career planners.

6. Word wars erupting on show biz talk shows before were more interesting. Then, it was possible for the protagonists to appear together in one show. Because of this, they were forced to hold on to their sense of civility or whatever vestige of manners was still left in them. They just bared their fangs and snarled, but they didn't bite of tear each other to pieces. And the talk show hosts themselves were careful not to provoke them more than necessary.

Protagonists

Today, the protagonists in any given controversy are usually not physically together in a single show. It's either one talks in one show and the other is in another show, or both guest in one show but one is in the studio while the other is patched in through telephone.

With this set-up, there is no risk of actual danger to the life and limb of either protagonists, which emboldens them to really throw bile and spleen at each other. There are even times when what come out of their mouths are things that should exit at the other end of the digestive system.

It's pathetic how these people are made to make such spectacles of themselves on national television. The tragic thing is, it's really the TV talk shows that suffer most—in terms of decency and integrity and dignity. Before, at least, people took pains to hold on to those qualities.

What am I saying here? The show biz talk show is no longer the exciting TV fare it used to be because it has mutated into a montrosity that only fewer and fewer people find it worth their while to spend their precious time on.

Sad. Very sad.

Through the eyes of a teacher

JOHNNY Go is a communicator and an educator. As a teacher, he remembers his life as a student, and sees one old memory with new eyes:

"I will never forget one afternoon when I was still in first year high school. Fr. Papilla and I were talking about my shyness and my tendency to eat my words. He encouraged me by saying that he too had to work hard to overcome his own limitations.

Missionary

"He also told me about the years when he was a missionary working in Xujiahui, Shanghai: Often there would be no microphone in church, and he had to recite the entire Mass at the top of his voice. Then imagine my surprise when right there and then, he proceeded to make the Sign of the Cross while shouting out the words.

"And then, to my greater bewilderment, he asked me to do the exact same thing—again and again and again. So there I was, a shy and skinny high school freshman sitting in his office, shouting out the Sign of the Cross to my guidance counselor until I was almost hoarse.

"Even to a high school freshman, it was a strange exercise in building self-confidence, but all the years that have passed since then have not erased the memory of the deep care and concern that I felt that day in his office."

Homilies

Johnny Go is also a Jesuit priest. His homilies, and those of other Jesuits such as Danny Huang, Jojo Magadia and Jett Villarin, are now collected in a new book from the Jesuit Communications Foundation, edited by Ari Dy, SJ.

"With New Eyes: The Word as Seen by Preachers of the Word" invites us to look again upon our lives through the reflections of these four Jesuits.

"With New Eyes" will be launched at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall on Saturday, Sept. 1, at 5:30 p.m.

MTV and JVC give Asian youth a chance to get a sound education

MTV Southeast Asia, together with JVC Asia Pte. Ltd., will be granting a music scholarship called MTV/JVC Sound Education to a talented, young individual in the region.

Vocalist

Working together for the first time, MTV and JVC are launching the MTV & JVC Sound Education campaign to give a talented young vocalist an opportunity to pursue a professional education in music. Other participants will walk away with attractive JVC and MTV prizes.

Subject to the judges' decision, the winner may also be offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to cut his or her own CD, produced by Victor Entertainment studio in Tokyo, Japan.

For one month, until Sept. 7, MTV Southeast Asia and JVC will be inviting entries from around the region. Participants are required to send a taped recording of their singing and a short write-up to this address: P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, Philippines.

The closing date for entries is Sept. 7, and finalists will be invited to Singapore on Sept. 28 for the finals. Interested parties can find out more details and information on www.mtvasia.com.

Exposure

Says Peter Bullard, senior vice president and managing director, MTV Southeast Asia, "MTV is committed to developing and discovering local, young talents in the region and give them exposure. The MTV & JVC Sound Education campaign provides a platform for budding talents in Southeast Asia to showcase their abilities and get that lucky break to start them on a career in music. It's our way of helping them realize their dreams."

Hitoshi Tachikawa, JVC's general manager, corporate marketing department, said, "JVC has been very active in supporting sports and music events. We are guided by our company's credo, 'Contributing to Culture and Serving Society.'"

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Little Devil
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NUTCASE
Rude Boy

10 YEARS AGO

Zoren, Richard and Cesar, way back when

By Noelani Torre

MONTANO. Talent and perseverance.

YOUNG men in show biz were particular forces to be reckoned with 10 years ago this week. They got featured in newspapers and their movies were earning big bucks at the box office.

First action starrer

Twenty-year-old Zoren Legaspi was on tenterhooks about his then soon-to-be released first action starrer "Pretty Boy Hoodlum."

The actor was moving up the ladder of success, having graduated from teeny-bopper movies (he debuted in the Joey Marquez comedy "Student Body") to leading-man roles (opposite Aiko Melendez, Ruffa Gutierrez, and Cristina Gonzalez), and finally to action.

"Excited *ako, pero kabado din* at the same time because I'm aware *na* big-budgeted *itong pelikula ko,* " he confessed at the time. "I know that *malaki ang* expectation *ni* Mother *sa akin.* If I make it, of course, I'll be very happy, as well as my producer and my family. When my dad learned about my venture into the action genre, *sabi niya galingan ko daw* since this movie will be the public's basis for figuring out who I really am."

Zoren was reported to have prepared hard for this film. He sweated it out *at* Shape-Ultra, enrolled in an acting workshop under Peque Gallaga, took up taekwondo and shooting lessons, and trained with the SOS Daredevils for the movie's action stunts.

Jail

"Pretty Boy Hoodlum" tells the tale of a young *probinsiyano* who leaves for Manila and later gets involved in criminal practices of all sorts which eventually land him in jail.

In prison, he hires himself out as a killer to a politician (played by Edu Manzano) whose identity is kept secret from him. The *probinsiyano*, of course, triumphs in the end, amid car chases and fight scenes galore.

"*Mas* thrilling *gumawa ng* action movies," Zoren recounted. "*Matagal ko na talagang gustong sumabak sa* action but I was often told that it was not the right time. Now that my producer and manager feel that the time is ripe for me, I hope I will enjoy the support of the moviegoing public."

The actor dismissed speculations concerning his "competition" with Viva's Raymart Santiago and Seiko's Ian Veneracion.

"*Hindi naman ako nakikipag-kumpetensiya sa kanila,* " he averred. "*Nauna lang mag*-release *ang* Viva *at* Seiko *ng* movies *nila* Raymart *at* Ian. *Pero sa totoo lang, nauna kaming mag*-shooting. It took us quite a while to finish the film *dahil* perfectionist *ang direktor ko. Inalagaan niya akong mabuti.* "

If you say so! — But where is Zoren Legaspi now? And Raymart Santiago and Ian Veneracion, for that matter. We could ask the same question about Richard Grieco. Remember him?

Intense portrayal

High school girls and their older sisters were all "crushing" on this guy 10 years ago for his "smoldering intense portrayal" of police-officer Booker in the widely popular "21 Jump Street."

His wacky new movie, "Teen Agent" was about to be released. The film was about a hang-loose high school student, the very antithesis of Booker, who is mistaken for a top undercover agent while in Paris on a field trip. He is dragged willy-nilly into the world of espionage, manages to overcome obstacles, but falls flat on his face again and again.

The dastardly villains that the teen agent is up against were played by no less than Oscar-winner Linda Hunt ("The Year of Living Dangerously") and Tony-winner Roger Ress ("The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby").

Well, we don't see much of Richard Grieco anymore. We've barely seen him at all in the past few years, as a matter of fact. Too bad.

Constant high

Here's one guy whose career has remained at a constant high for the past decade (more or less)—Cesar Montano.

Ten years ago, he was scheduled to finish three more movies for his mother studio, Seiko Films, before working on his six-picture, two-year contract with Viva. He was certainly busy!

Soon to be shown was his movie with Rita Avila and Jestoni Alarcon, the sex-drama "Sumayaw Ka, Salome." He had also just finished doing "Kapag Nag-abot ang Langit at Lupa," a Sheryl-Romnick starrer directed by Jun Posadas, where he played the villain.

"Sumayaw Ka Salome" was directed by Laurice Gullen from a screenplay by Joen Chionglo which was based on Ric S. Aquino's widely followed serial of the same title in Superstar Komiks.

This was Cesar's sixth movie with Rita under Seiko. They had teamed-up in the past for "Mahirap ang Magmahal," "Kasalanan ang Buhayin Ka," "Machete," "Hindi Laman ang Puso," and "Mainit…Masarap, Parang Kaning Isusubo."

He had no problems with job offers then, just as he has none now. Perhaps it's just a matter of luck, but talent and perseverance sure come in handy, too—and that's what Cesar has, in heaps.

IT'S BACK!
Nestlé
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Keep saving those Nestlé and Goya wrappers. Details on September 1.
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Crunch
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POLO
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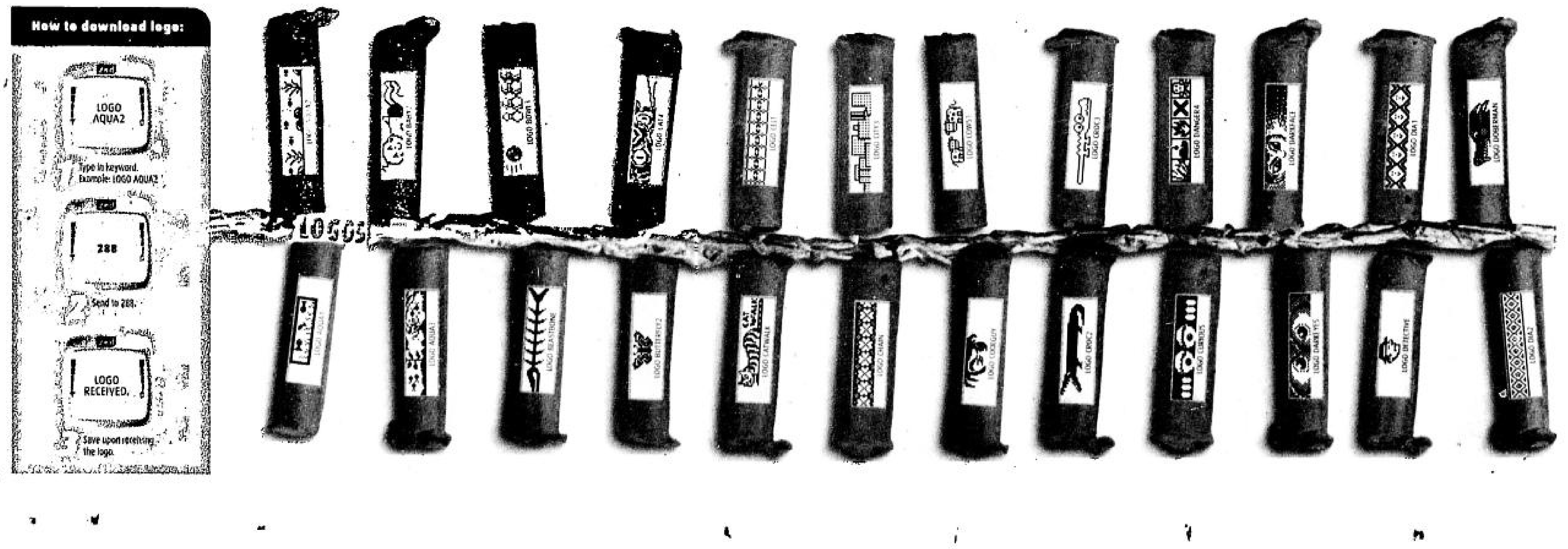
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'American Pie 2' is top film for second weekend

LOS ANGELES—"American Pie 2" remains the dessert of choice for moviegoers, grossing $21.1 million to stay on top of the North American box office for a second straight weekend.

Top movies

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and ACNielsen EDI Inc.:

1. "American Pie 2," Universal, $21.1 million, 3,072 locations, $6,870 average, $87.3 million, two weeks.

2. "Rush Hour 2," New Line, $19 million, 3,080 locations, $6,177 average, $164.7 million, three weeks.

3. "Rat Race," Paramount, $11.7 million, 2,550 locations, $4,573 average, $11.7 million, one week.

'The Others'

4. "The Others," Miramax, $10.9 million, 2,153 locations, $5,066 average, $32.2 million, two weeks.

5. "The Princess Diaries," Disney, $9.6 million, 2,726 locations, $3,527 average, $70.2 million, three weeks.

6. "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," Universal, $7.2 million, 1,595 locations, $4,520 average, $7.2 million, one week.

7. "Planet of the Apes," Fox, $7.1 million, 3,060 locations, $2,334 average, $161.2 million, four weeks.

8. "American Outlaws," Warner Bros., $4.9 million, 2,348 locations, $2,068 average, $4.9 million, one week.

9. "Jurassic Park III," Universal, $4.4 million, 2,516 locations, $1,765 average, $168.3 million, five weeks.

'Legally Blonde'

10. "Legally Blonde," MGM, $2.6 million, 1,770 locations, $1,455 average, $83.3 million, six weeks.

11. "Osmosis Jones," Warner Bros., $2.5 million, 2,305 locations, $1,087 average, $10.3 million, two weeks.

12. "America's Sweethearts," Sony, $2.3 million, 1,948 locations, $1,185 average, $87.8 million, five weeks.

13. "The Score," Paramount, $1.8 million, 1,148 locations, $1,586 average, $65.5 million, six weeks.

14. "Original Sin," MGM, $1.1 million, 1,279 locations, $870 average, $15.1 million, three weeks.

15. "Dr. Dolittle 2," Fox, $766,903, 730 locations, $1,051 average, $109.9 million, nine weeks.

16. "Spy Kids," special edition, Miramax, $764,702, 1,202 locations, $636 average, $110.8 million (total for original film and special edition), two weeks in re-release.

17. "Cats & Dogs," Warner Bros., $692,861, 924 locations, $750 average, $90.9 million, seven weeks.

18. "The Fast and the Furious," Universal, $681,065, 671 locations, $1,015 average, $140.4 million, nine weeks.

19. "The Deep End," Fox Searchlight, $641,051, 58 locations, $11,053 average, $984,958, two weeks.

20. "Shrek," DreamWorks, $538,767, 561 locations, $960 average, $260.4 million, 14 weeks. *AP*

JASON BIGGS stars anew in "American Pie 2."

Asians become bankable directors in Hollywood

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

ASIAN filmmakers have established themselves so firmly in Hollywood that they're making one movie after another, most of them with no strong oriental element to them.

John Woo's latest film is "Windtalkers," a movie set in World War Two starring Nicolas Cage, Christian Slater and Adam Beach.

Code

Cage portrays a Marine assigned to protect a Navajo brave who speaks in a code based on the Navajo language that can't b broken by Japanese intelligence, so it helps American forces win some important battles.

The hook is that the Navajo "code speaker" may have to be killed to prevent the Japanese from forcing him to help them crack the code. In the light of this tragic eventuality, Cage and the Navajo brave (Beach) form a strong friendship.

Woo agreed to direct the film because it sends a stirring anti-war message. Of course, the movie's producers hope that it will become as big a hit as "Pearl Harbor," but its more meditative and insightful tone may blunt its commercial thrust.

Torrid affair

For his part, Chen Kaige has megged "Killing Me Softly," his first English-language film. It's about two passionate people, Heather Graham and Joseph Fiennes, who launch into a torrid affair in London.

They're both deliriously happy about their erotic arrangement—until Graham learns that some of Fiennes' former lovers have met a tragic death.

Naturally, this gives her pause, and she tries to crack the case before she ends up as her lover's next victim.

Parallel worlds

Finally, James Wong has megged "The One," starring Jet Li, Jason Statham and Delroy Lindo. The film is set in parallel worlds, with Li playing two versions of himself.

To distinguish one victim from the other, Li has had to do his fight scenes in two different styles—a difficult feat even for him.

Aside form Woo, Chen and Wong, other Asian directors active in Hollywood include Ang Lee, Tsui Hark, Joan Chen and Wayne Wang. Their success has made American movie producers more open to other Asian directorial talents, so the day may not be far off when Hollywood's list of generally Chinese directors may be joined by a Filipino *direk*.

What will it take for that to happen? Let's look at how some Asian directors got their start in Hollywood:

Ang Lee attracted the attention of American producers in 1993 with "The Wedding Banquet," a Taiwan-US coproduction.

The movie was about how a gay Taiwanese-American tried to fool his parents via a fake wedding, with unexpected complications. Lee's breezy, witty handling of the material convinced American producers that he could direct in the west.

After further proving himself with "Sense and Sensibility" and other films, Ang Lee is now a bankable director in Hollywood.

Artistic productions

Chen Kaige started his directing career in the People's Republic of China with a number of textured, perceptive and artistic productions, some of which made waves in international film festivals.

Billed as a "serious" filmmaker, it's taken Chen longer to be tapped to direct his first English-language film. But that has finally happened with "Killing Me Softly," so it's possible even for "noncommercial" Asian directors to eventually make it abroad.

Of course, the fastest route to an international directing career is the one taken by John Woo, whose action films made in Hong Kong were so visually exciting that Hollywood quickly took notice and offered him high-profile actioners that became hits, thus establishing Woo's bankability as an international filmmaker.

Which route will the best of our filmmakers take in *their* bid to make movies on the international film scene?

CAGE (left) and Beach in "Windtalkers."

The (other) story behind the founding of the Manunuri

BY BEHN CERVANTES

I HAD agreed to meet Nestor Torre, Manny Pichel and the other founding members of the soon-to-be *Manunuri Ng Pelikulang Pilipino* at Taza de Oro on the afternoon of May 1, 1976. The day was traditionally associated with the struggle of the workers the world over, but in Manila Labor Day celebrations had been formal and government-controlled since the proclamation of Martial Law on that infamous September of 1972.

Auspicious afternoon

May 1, 1976 was expected to be quiet, too, for which reason the founding Manunuri members agreed to meet on that auspicious afternoon at laidback Taza de Oro on Roxas blvd. I didn't let on that a public demonstration would be held on that day, not too far away from the meeting place.

I had agreed to come knowing I would first participate in the Labor Day rally. Naturally, I wasn't sure of the outcome of the first major public demonstration against Martial Law.

The radical workers represented by KMU (Kilusang Mayo Uno) and its various allies were held in check for sometime by Martial Law, arrests, incarceration or plain disappearance.

However, on that day things would change. Militant workers would rise once again and let their voices be heard, along with those of the many progressive forces that had been enjoined to participate in the rally. The proletariat of the Philippines would reclaim the day and establish their role in social change. Many supporters would join them on this occasion.

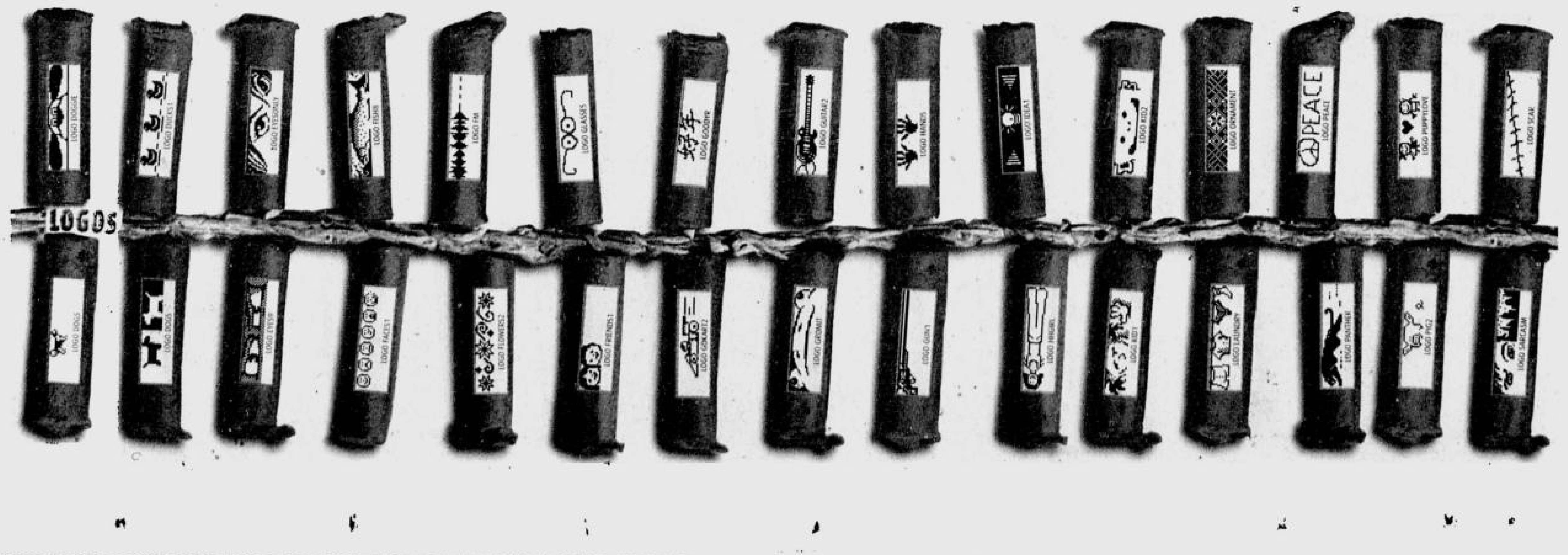
Holiday strollers

The UP Repertory Company members had organized themselves well. We had agreed to meet at the UP campus and proceed to the Luneta in public vehicles. We would then meet at a given spot where we would make a head count and then spread out pretending to be mere holiday strollers. We saw many other familiar activists who, *Pinoy*-style, simply raised their eyebrows in recognition or acknowledgement. The participating organizations were elated by the considerable number of prospective demonstrators quietly waiting for the signal to start the lightning rally. There were many nuns and seminarians taking strolls, too. Their presence had a calming effect.

THE (OTHER)/p.D7

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG 25 - AUG 31

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vampires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Pavarotti and Friends 2000* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 To Be Announced 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Gray Lady Down* 11:00 Business Class	6:00 Viva Premiere Night 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 Fist of Fury	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Ito na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Business & Leisure	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Risky Business* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 It's A Miracle 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Prophecy 2* 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA Game1 7:30 PBA GAme 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva Music Channel 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Special *The Brat Pack* 9:00 E! Special *TV Moms* 9:30 Entertainment Report Card '01 10:00 Celebrity Home 11:00 The Best of 60 Minutes
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Speed	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 The Big Night *Spellbinder* 9:00 Life With Roger 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonballZ 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:15 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Sparks 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 NYPD Blue	6:30 Viva Proudly Presents 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 WNBA 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Grapevine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Only in Hollywood* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *Roman Empire* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Oka Tokat 9:30 Regal Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Business Insights	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Rx Files 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:45 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Pretender 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Action Cinema 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:30 Viva Music Channel 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! True Hollywood Story *The Curse of the Royal Family* 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Andie McDowell* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Diyos At Bayan	6:00 Pyginalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:45 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Imbestigador	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Malcolm in the Middle 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Survivor 2 8:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Entertaining London* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *D.C.* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Home Along da Riles 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best Of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Normal Ohio 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:35 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Amazing People 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Police Hour	6:30 TeleViva Specials 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Elle McPherson* 8:00 Celebrity Profile *Sarah Ferguson* 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Laurence Fishburne* 11:30 Extreme Close *Cindy Crawford*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Digimon 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Restol 7:00 Top of the Pops 7:30 By Request *Westlife 4* 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Blown Away*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pokemon 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:15 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Holding the Baby 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Double Impact*	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Let's Play Pool 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:30 MYX 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Princess Diana* 9:00 E! Special *William: A King In Waiting* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Outback* 12:00 Talk Soup



Animated features make big bucks

TIME was when animated features constituted a relatively small cottage industry in Hollywood. The runaway success of "The Lion King" changed all that.

The pioneering Disney studio upped the budgets of its subsequent animated releases. DreamWorks geared up to compete with Disney by way of alternative and less traditional animated projects. Fox Entertainment also launched its animation arm, unfortunately with less encouraging returns.

As more filmmakers get turned on to animation, budgets aren't the only elements that have been rising steadily; earning prospects (and actual income) have been shooting through the roof.

BONNEVIE. Guests on "The Best of XYZ" at 7 tonight on Channel 21.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

How much *are* animated features making at the tills? Here's an instructive line-up of the top animated earners in the past six years:

In 1995, "Pocahontas" had a US gross of $141M. "Toy Story" did even better with $191M. Both productions were Disney projects.

In 1998, four animated movies did particularly well: Disney's "A Bug's Life" (with Pixar) made $162M and "Mulan" earned $120M. DreamWorks entered the fray that year with "The Prince of Egypt" ($101M) and "Antz" ($90M).

DreamWorks was determined to beat Disney at its own animation game, but its initial box office takes, while not all that bad, couldn't top the earnings of the more experiences Disney company.

In 1999, Disney had the field all to itself when it came to animated hits or near-hits: "Toy Story 2" was a major sensation with its whopping US gross of $245M, while "Tarzan" came in at a still impressive $171M.

It was in Film Year 2000 that DreamWorks first tasted blood. Its production, "Chicken Run," made a creditable $106M, upstaging Disney's "The Emperor's New Groove" and its relatively phlegmatic $89M gross.

But Disney countered later in the year with "Dinosaur," which clicked with viewers and earned $137M, leaving DreamWorks' "The Road to El Dorado," with its take of only $50M far behind.

Well, things sure have changed this year: DreamWorks' "Shrek" has made a stunning $260M to date, while Disney's "Atlantis: The Lost Empire" has managed to gross only $80M.

Of course, Disney won't take DreamWorks' box-office blitz sitting down. It has a new animated feature, "Monsters, Inc.," set to open in the States on Nov. 2.

While it's likely that it wont earn as much as "Shrek," it will probably do better than "Atlantis," so the disparity in the two studios' earnings for 2001 won't be as embarrassing to Disney as it is at present.

Will DreamWorks be able to consolidate its gains in the coming years? Producer Jerry Katzenberg, who was eased out of Disney some years ago, certainly aims to shore up his advantage. Revenge *is* sweet, specially when it comes so late in the day.

MTV Philippines events

On Monday, Aug 27, MTV Philippines premieres the hit action-comedy film, "Rush Hour 2" with America's funniest fighting team, Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.

On Friday, Aug. 27, MTV Philippines with Sauza Zaz begins the second leg of the bar tour, Unified Domination at Manila's newest nightspot, Pravda, on 225 N. Garcia st. (formerly Reposo st.) in Makati, with two of the country's hottest DJs, David Jacob and Anthony Kierulf, playing the best in house music.

For the much-awaited MTV Philippines VJ Hunt 2001, the first tryouts will be held on Sept. 8 and 9 at SM Megamall.

The search moves to SM Cebu on Sept. 15, Robinson's Place, Bacolor on Sept. 22, Jason Mall in Davao City on Sept. 29, SM Manila on Oct. 6, and Lim Ket Kai in Cagayan de Oro City on Oct. 13.

Demo tapes may be sent to: MTV Philippines VJ Hunt 2001, P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City, Philippines. Deadline is on Oct. 10.

'XYZ'

At 7 tonight on Channel 21, "The Best of XYZ" features Dina Bonnevie on how she moved on after her failed relationships. Ida Vargas directs.

'Tropang Pinoy'

At 4 p.m. today on RPN-9, "Tropang Pinoy" focuses on yoga and diet therapy. The program is hosted by Tony and Beth Tamayo.

Janice and Gelli launch sister act on daytime TV

(From page D1)

Introspective

Now, for the first time on the local daytime talk scene, GMA teams up the De Belen sisters in one show: the introspective Janice (who recently rediscovered her talent in hosting via "S-Files") and the frank and spunky Gelli, who's known as an actress more than anything else. The show is aptly called "Sis," for obvious reasons.

"Sis" intends to highlight the lighter and positive side of personalities and celebrities in show business, politics and other fields. It will be shot on location with a real house (located somewhere in Quezon City) serving as a permanent venue for interviews, while occasional video shoots will be done in various places such as restaurants, bookstores, parks, etc.

For instance, Janice has taped a career interview at National Bookstore as a fitting location for asking a celebrity what sort of books she reads.

How did they receive the good news? Janice laughs, "Gelli knew it before I did. When she arrived at my house, she asked me, *'Alam mo na ba?' Sagot ko, 'Ang ano?' Sabi niya, 'May* show *tayo!' Hindi ako makapaniwala,* so *sabi ko, 'Talaga?'* Then Gelli exclaimed *'Talaga! Tingnan mo, tatawagan ka nila mamaya.'* And they did. So *hindi pala tsismis.*"

Concept

They claim they never discussed how they would treat the show or the responsibilities they would share. "It was handed down to us. They explained the concept, they described what the show is supposed to be visually. And then *'yun na 'yun. Wala na kaming masyadong* discussion *pa na eto sa 'yo to, eto sa akin 'to,*" Gelli stresses.

Janice observes, "I guess, the nice thing about us is, *pwede mo na kaming isalang kaagad dahil nagkakaintindihan na nga kami.* Actually *para lang kaming nagsa*-shopping. We know each other very well so the reaction is automatic.

"We're actually more concerned about our clothes or shoes on the show. *Mas 'yun pa 'yung napag-uusapan namin.* So far, we haven't had problems in the actual interviews because we jibe. The questions she asks are far from what I want to ask. So, so far, *wala pa kaming problema.*"

GELLI AND JANICE. Great rapport.

Does Janice give Gelli pointers in hosting? *"Wala, kasi mas madaldal 'yan sa akin, e,"* beams Janice.

Gelli smiles, "No, *si Janice kasi,* right away *na*-analyze *na niya 'yung sinabi at pwede na niyang i*-wrap up *at ikwento sa 'yo. Tapos, magbibigay pa siya ng mga* quotes. Quotation queen, *di ba? Kaya nga ako tatanga na lang sa kanya."*

Chemistry

The chemistry is undoubtedly there. Growing up together has obviously established great rapport between them.

During the show's press conference, Janice and Gelli gamely addressed even the most controversial issues, particularly Janice's recent estrangement from her husband of 10 years, John Estrada.

When asked if they approved of the men they married, Janice quips, "*Siya, hindi! Ako, hindi ko naman kasi pwedeng ihalo 'yung* opinion *ko sa gusto niyang gawin sa buhay niya.*

"Supposing Ariel was not the kind and considerate husband that he is, *hindi ko pwedeng panghimasukan yun at sabihin sa kanya, hoy,* Gelli, *h'wag siya.*

Exact opposite

"We just make sure that we're there in case she fails. Of course, she's the exact opposite, *dahil siya, sasabihin niya talaga!"*

Why did Gelli disapprove? "I feel that it's my obligation to tell her, *dahil ayokong kapag nagkaproblema* in the future, *sasabihin niya sa akin, 'E, ba't di mo sinabi, e nakikita mo na pala?"'*

Like most siblings, they have few things in common. Except for their preference for food, Janice claims that in almost anything else, she and Gelli are complete opposites. Their views about love, life and marriage are different. Janice hates wearing make-up, Gelli comfortably goes around fully made-up. *"Tamad ito e,"* Gelli teases her older sister.

Did they ever fight? *"Oo naman. Imposible namang wala,"* Gelli replies.

"When we were kids, we used to have physical fights. *Pero nung tumanda na kami, syempre wala na. Di na naman siguro magandang tingnan kung magsasabunutan pa kami, di ba?"* asks Janice.

Friends

They're clearly friends besides being sisters. At what point in their lives did the friendship develop? *"Nung nagdadalaga na kami,"* replies Gelli.

Janice disagrees, *"Pero hindi na rin masyado."*

"Nawala dahil you got married," clarifies Gelli.

Janice interjects, *"Kasi ayaw mo 'yung pinakasalan ko."*

Gelli quips, *"Pinakisamahan ko naman, di ba?"*

Laughter fills the hall room. If this sampling of the easy rapport between them will be the show's daily offering, we will have a pleasant addition to our daily daytime viewing schedule.

Let's all find out, starting on Aug. 27 at 10:30 a.m. on GMA-7.

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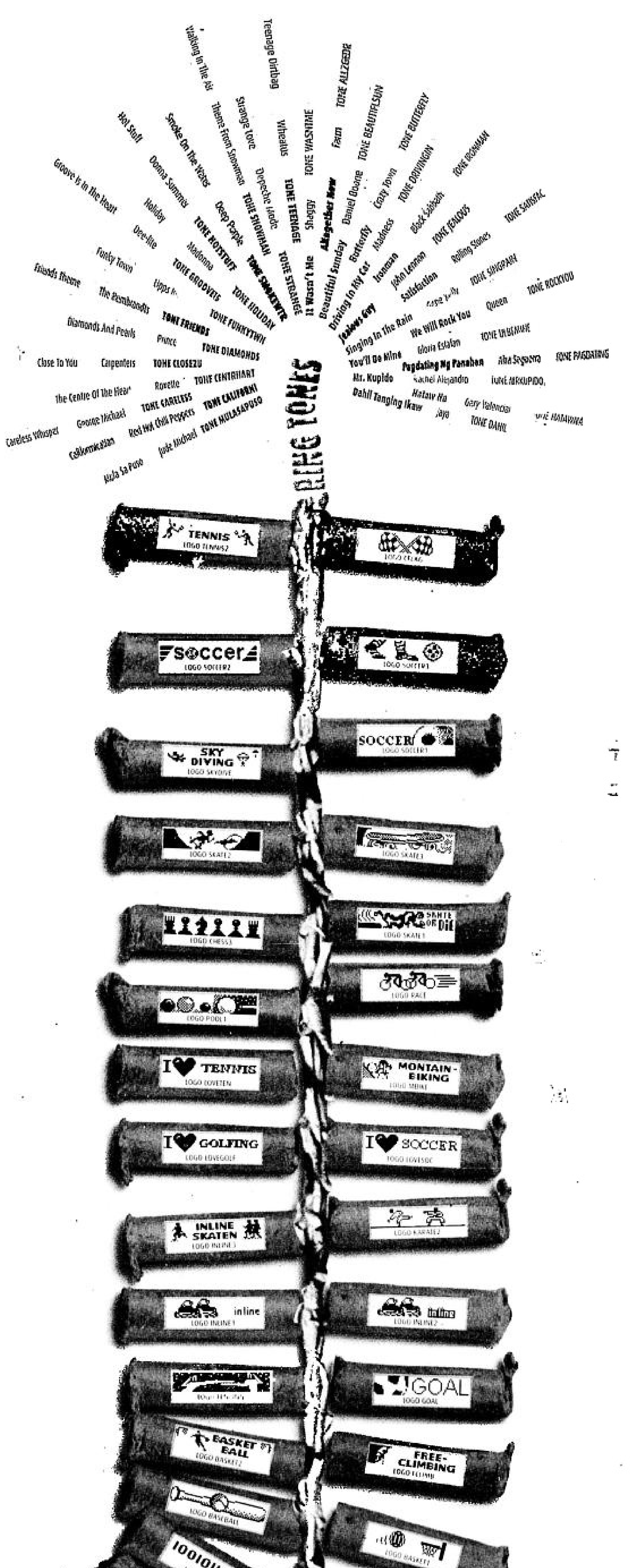

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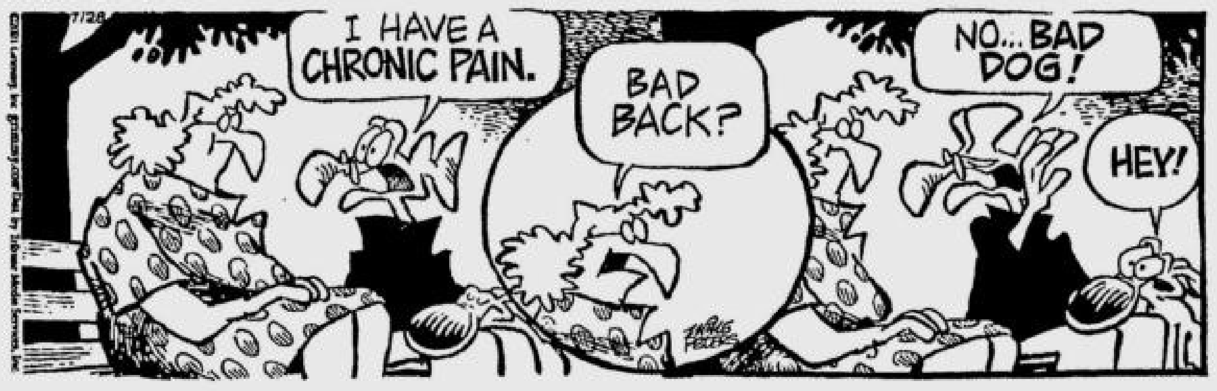
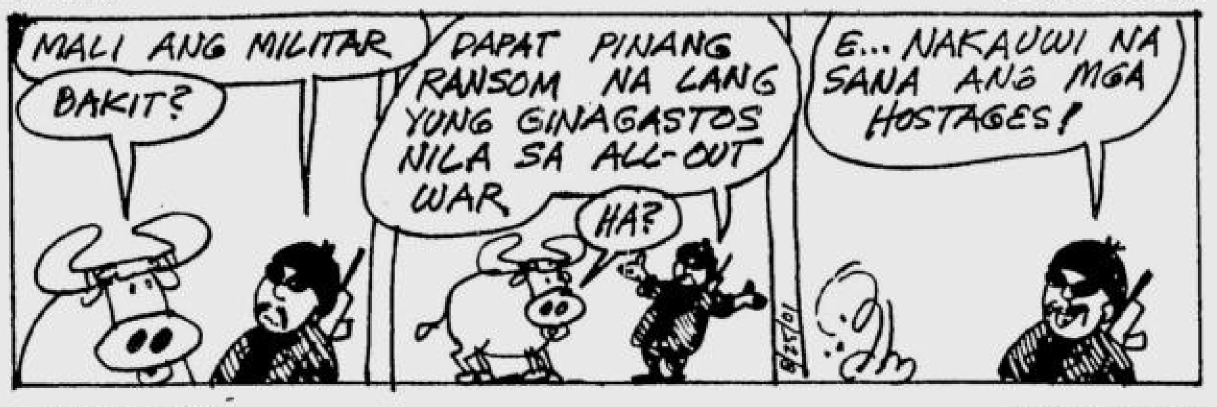
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I HAVE A CHRONIC PAIN.
BAD BACK?
NO... BAD DOG!
HEY!

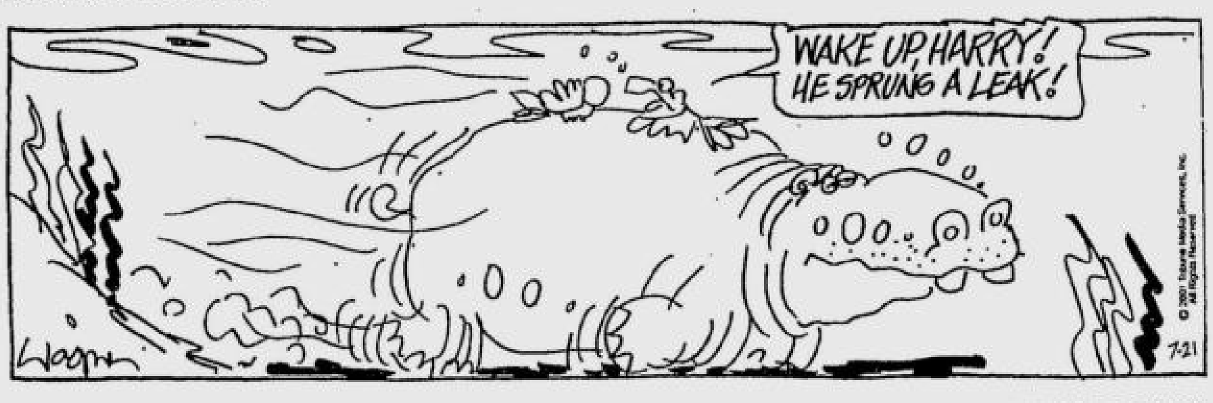
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALI ANG MILITAR
BAKIT?
DAPAT PINANG RANSOM NA LANG YUNG GINAGASTOS NILA SA ALL-OUT WAR
HA?
E... NAKAUWI NA SANA ANG MGA HOSTAGES!
8/25/01

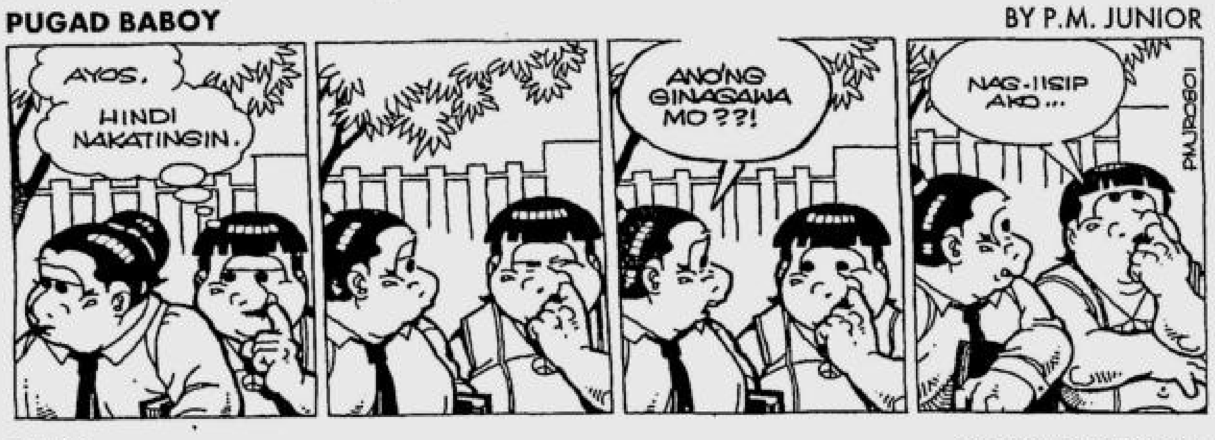
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WAKE UP, HARRY! HE SPRUNG A LEAK!
7-21

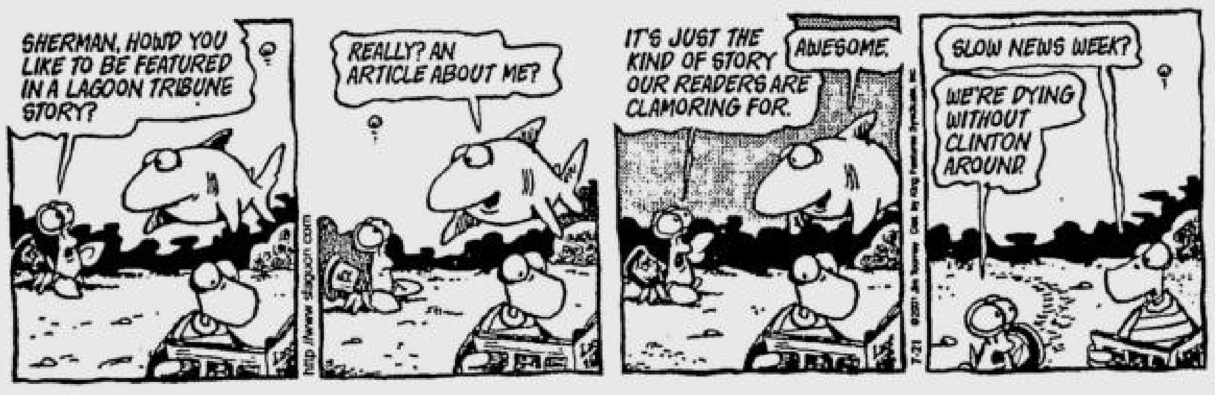
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AYOS.
HINDI NAKATINGIN.
ANO'NG GINAGAWA MO??!
NAG-IISIP AKO...
PMJR08-01

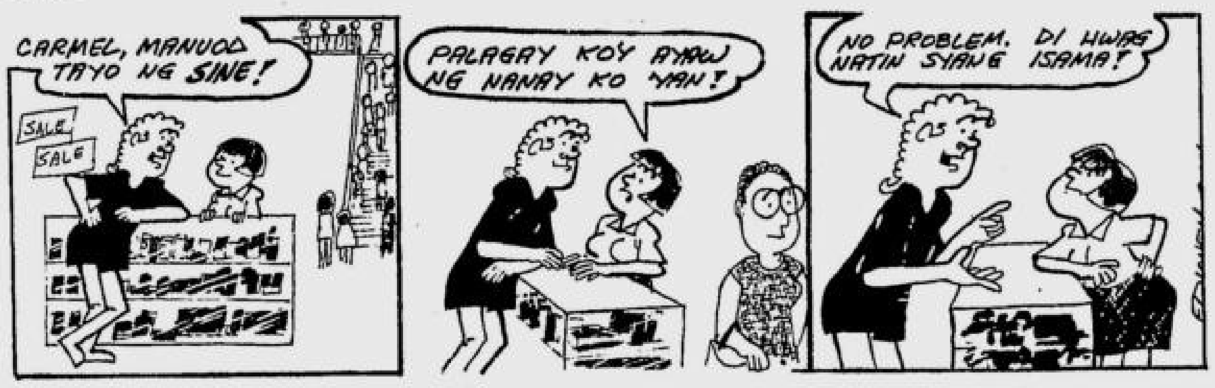
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE FEATURED IN A LAGOON TRIBUNE STORY?
REALLY? AN ARTICLE ABOUT ME?
IT'S JUST THE KIND OF STORY OUR READERS ARE CLAMORING FOR.
AWESOME.
SLOW NEWS WEEK?
WE'RE DYING WITHOUT CLINTON AROUND.
http://www.slagoon.com
7-21

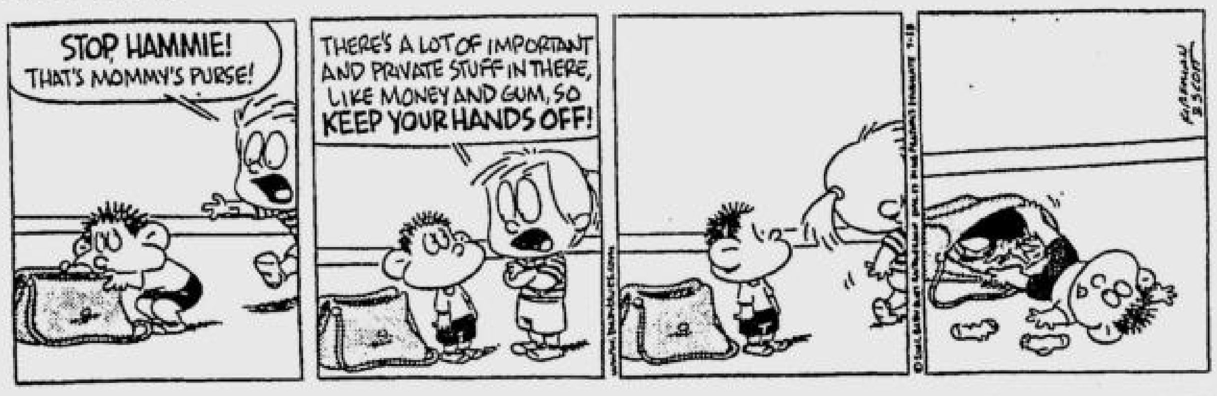
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


CARMEL, MANUOD TAYO NG SINE!
SALE
SALE
PALAGAY KO'Y AYAW NG NANAY KO 'YAN!
NO PROBLEM. DI HWAG NATIN SYANG ISAMA!

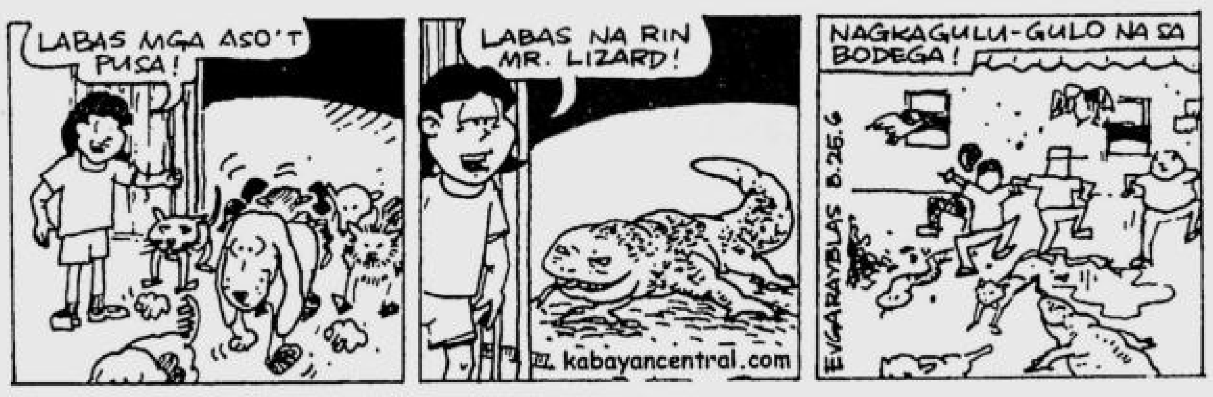
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


STOP, HAMMIE! THAT'S MOMMY'S PURSE!
THERE'S A LOT OF IMPORTANT AND PRIVATE STUFF IN THERE, LIKE MONEY AND GUM, SO KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF!
7-18

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


LABAS MGA ASO'T PUSA!
LABAS NA RIN MR. LIZARD!
kabayancentral.com
NAGKAGULU-GULO NA SA BODEGA!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.25.6

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elvis Costello, Sean Connery, Billy Ray Cyrus, Regis Philbin, Blair Underwood, Joanne Whalley, Kel Mitchell

Happy Birthday: Your willingness to help the less fortunate will bring praise, recognition and satisfaction this year. Also admired will be your ability to look at the big picture and find solutions. Share findings with the pertinent people in order to reach the goals you set. Your numbers: 6. 19, 24, 30, 37, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An increase in communications can be favorable if you don't confuse issues. Be careful what is said to whom. Be prepared to deal with the dilemmas of family members.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be patient and listen. If you force your opinions on your partner, you'll grow further apart. Allow others to do their own thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In-laws or neighbors are likely to cause difficulties today. Try to stay to yourself and refuse to be baited into a heated discussion. Spend time alone with your lover for best results.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend time doing things with children or your partner. You can handle him or her. Get involved in fitness programs that will help distract you from anger or disputes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Concentrate on fixing up the house. There'll be a fight if your mate doesn't feel you've been carrying your weight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You know better, so don't become trapped in unsafe financial schemes. Avoid confrontations with friends or relatives. You are not in a winning cycle when it comes to debates. Be careful as minor accidents are possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of the little things around the house. Be quick to respond to whatever occurs, and you can accomplish plenty today. You will have perspective on your life and loved ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Honesty will play a major role in controlling the situation at home. If you are courteous, calm and mature in dealing with issues, loved ones will respect you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful. It may be fun to pretend that you're a race-car driver, but the officer who stops you won't be the least bit impressed. Stick to the rules, regardless of the situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can meet potential new partners at community meetings. Your interest in the region will lead to a leadership position.

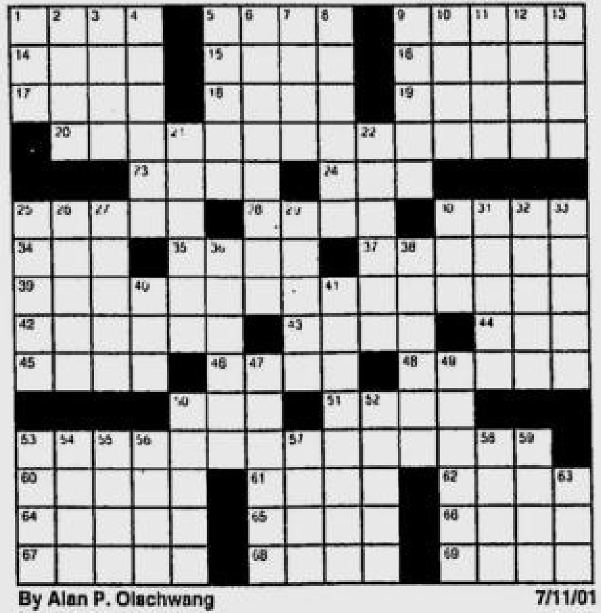
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't blame your mate for mishaps that you may have contributed to. Take a break, and invite mutual friends over to relieve some of the tension that has built up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Romantic opportunities will unfold if you participate in interesting seminars. Move back into the mainstream by picking up information regarding your future prospects.

Birthday Baby: Your high-powered energetic nature will help you see pursuits through to the end. You will always look out for the underdog and will stay ahead of any competition by doing the little extras.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

7/11/01

ACROSS
1 Puppy feet
5 Dundee fellow
9 Plummets
14 Leave off the list
15 Miami or Lima location
16 Make new charts
17 Dorothy's pooch
18 Healing ointment
19 Mindless
20 Fowl breed
23 Actress Teri
24 Press coverage
25 Gem
28 Flash Gordon's merciless foe
30 Coffin platform
34 Literary collection
35 Ski lift
37 Baseball bird
39 Poe story, with "The"
42 Providing weaponry
43 Without ice
44 Ms. Gardner
45 Cozy abode
46 Abound
48 "A Doll's House" writer
50 Long, long time
51 Indigenous people of Japan
53 Eternity and then some
60 Avignon's river
61 "God's Little Acre" co-star Ray
62 Jubilant gaiety
64 Writer Chekhov
65 Banana wrapper
66 Flair
67 Skoal or prosit
68 Kennedy and Koppel
69 Capital of Phoenicia

DOWN
1 Lobster trap
2 __ vincit omnia
3 "Life __ Father"
4 Yes man
5 On the wagon
6 Mao, e.g.
7 Lubricates
8 Comic Lily
9 Slake thirst
10 Distress painfully
11 Sharif or Bradley
12 Glass piece
13 Made haste
21 Timothy who was James Bond
22 Luanda's land
25 Glossy lacquer
26 Harden
27 Reheats
29 Goodnight girl of song
30 Memory unit
31 Jots
32 Ecole student
33 Campaigned for another term
36 Largest piggy?
38 Eye lining
40 Illuminated
41 Issued an ultimatum
47 Captivated
49 Allocation plan
50 Phenomenon
52 Images of gods
53 College social org.
54 Exclamation of distress
55 Ecclesiastical court
56 Seth's son
57 Not aweather
58 Accomplice
59 Calendar span
63 Compass pt.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	H	A	H	■	B	E	A	D	■	S	P	L	I	T
L	E	D	A	■	R	A	V	E	■	T	O	O	T	H
O	M	A	R	■	E	R	O	S	■	R	O	U	S	E
P	I	N	B	A	L	L	W	I	Z	A	R	D	■	■
S	N	O	O	D	■	■	■	L	I	P	■	M	A	P
■	■	■	R	O	L	L	O	U	T	■	T	O	B	E
A	I	D	■	P	E	E	N	■	■	A	R	U	B	A
P	R	E	S	T	I	D	I	G	I	T	A	T	O	R
R	A	S	P	S	■	■	C	A	S	T	■	H	T	S
I	N	D	Y	■	S	I	E	S	T	A	S	■	■	■
L	I	E	■	E	R	N	■	■	■	I	A	M	B	S
■	■	M	A	G	I	C	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N
A	R	O	M	A	■	H	U	N	G	■	O	H	N	O
L	I	N	E	D	■	E	T	C	H	■	U	R	D	U
S	P	A	N	S	■	S	E	E	S	■	T	E	S	T

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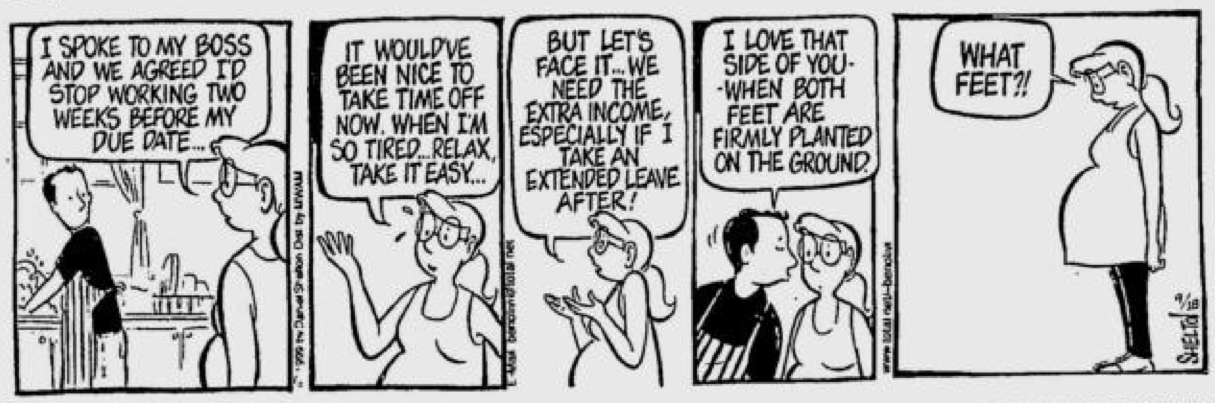
7/11/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

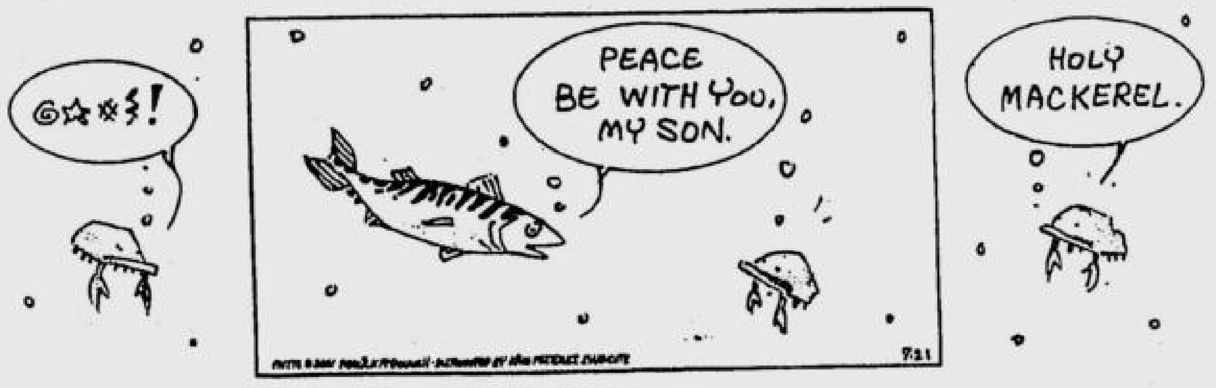
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I SPOKE TO MY BOSS AND WE AGREED I'D STOP WORKING TWO WEEKS BEFORE MY DUE DATE...
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE TO TAKE TIME OFF NOW. WHEN I'M SO TIRED... RELAX, TAKE IT EASY...
BUT LET'S FACE IT... WE NEED THE EXTRA INCOME, ESPECIALLY IF I TAKE AN EXTENDED LEAVE AFTER!
I LOVE THAT SIDE OF YOU- -WHEN BOTH FEET ARE FIRMLY PLANTED ON THE GROUND.
WHAT FEET?!
9/18

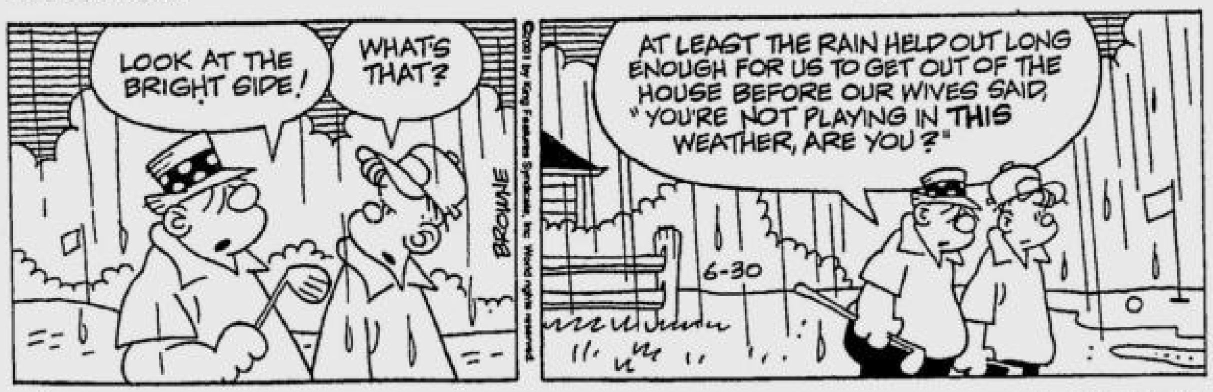
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


G☆✲$!
PEACE BE WITH YOU, MY SON.
HOLY MACKEREL.
7-21

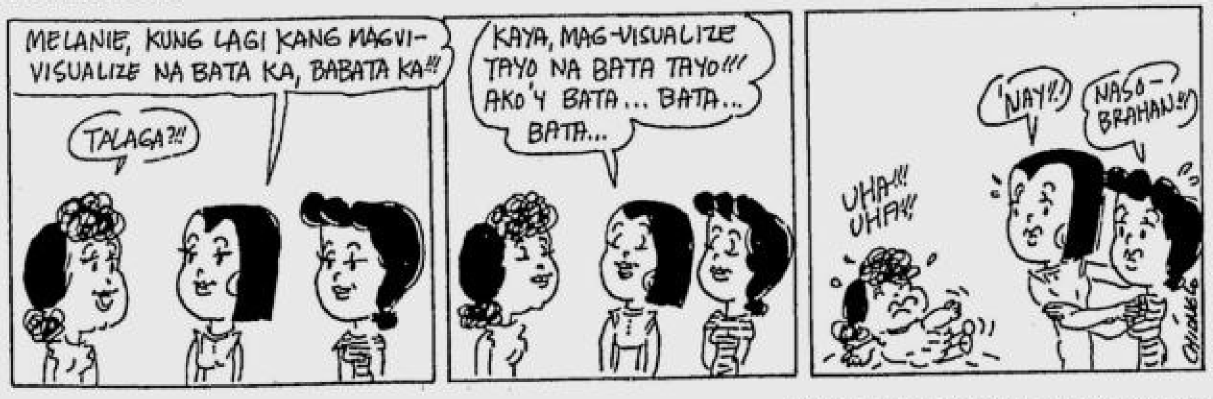
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE!
WHAT'S THAT?
AT LEAST THE RAIN HELD OUT LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE BEFORE OUR WIVES SAID, "YOU'RE NOT PLAYING IN THIS WEATHER, ARE YOU?"
BROWNE
6-30

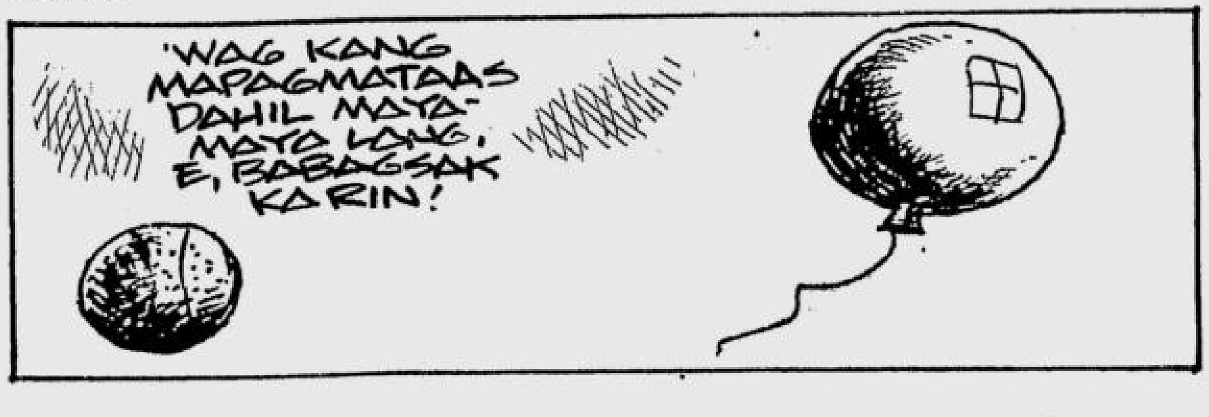
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, KUNG LAGI KANG MAGVI-VISUALIZE NA BATA KA, BABATA KA!!!
TALAGA?!!
KAYA, MAG-VISUALIZE TAYO NA BATA TAYO!!! AKO'Y BATA... BATA... BATA...
UHA!!! UHA!!!
'NAY!!
NASOBRAHAN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KANG MAPAGMATAAS DAHIL MAYA-MAYA LANG, E, BABAGSAK KA RIN!

Out of the cold, into the warmth of a Habitat home

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

FROM afar, it seems like any resettlement area. Rows and rows of duplex dwellings back to back with one another, some already being lived in while others still needing roofs, doors and windows. All kinds of vehicles are parked this way and that and people mill about the area.

Soldiers

There are soldiers of the Engineering Battalion in their combat outfits and skilled workers wearing color-coded shirts that distinguish them from the others. Coming closer, you know this is more than just a regular worksite.

I slosh through the muddy field, under the threat of darkening skies and rain. And then, I am in the heart of the Pinugay Resettlement Area in Montalban, Rizal, under the World Leaders Build Program of Habitat Humanity Phils. Foundation Inc.

From August 6 to 10, Petron Foundation Volunteerism in Action swung into full gear as a number of the country's leading corporations sent volunteer teams of executives and staff to build houses for their urban poor home partners.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo arrived early to inaugurate the site and, for the closing ceremonies, it was former President Cory Aquino's turn to grace the occasion. *Tita* Cory came fresh from Korea after meeting with former US president Jimmy Carter, who is also a Habitat leader and spokesperson.

Earlier, Malu Erni, Director of the Petron Foundation, recounted how she helped wrap steel wire around the steel bars used for foundation material in houses. She was in awe as she remembered the experience.

The job was not an easy one. But, like the rest of Petron's house-building volunteers, Malu comes to the site everyday, ready for the grueling tasks ahead.

I search for Petron's house partners who are appropriately tagged Sweat Equity Partners. As Malu put it, "*Kasi, pawis lang ang kaya nilang ipuhunan.*" The couple, Samuel and Merly Gonzalez are predictably shy and embarrassed, their eyes brilliant with unshed tears and the thrill of becoming owners of a real house made of cement and roofed with steel supports and brand-new galvanized iron sheets.

"*Dati kaming nakatira sa* Marcos Highway, *sa tabi ng* rip-rap," Samuel recounts. "*Pero delikado doon,*" Merly continues. Three times, a car driven by a drunken driver screeched off the highway, just a little distance away from the roof of their lean-to.

"*Pero nagagalit sila pag tinutulungan namin, kasi gusto na raw nila talaga mamatay,*" Samuel narrates with puzzlement. Indeed, can life get any harder than that being led by the country's urban and rural poor?

Raffle

Samuel and Merly and their six children won the right to own the house in the raffle conducted by the Rizal government. According to Alice Mendiola, the provincial coordinator, priority is given to those displaced by road widening projects and those living beside creeks. However, Merly said that if a recipient is not able to pay the sum of P500 or P600 each month for three successive months, that person can lose the right of ownership. The Gonzalezes have some 15 years to pay off the entire amount of the property to the government.

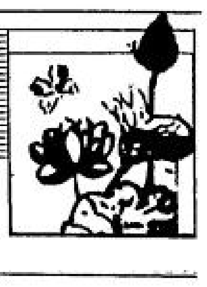
The houses are finished, The Petron executives and staff are more than ready to call it a day—if not a week! Their hands are raw. Their arms, shoulders, backs and legs need more than daily massages to ease the ache. But they feel better. Because they have just helped bring Samuel, Merly and their six children out of the cold, into the warmth of a Habitat home.

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with, from left, Petron president Motassim al-Maashouq, Merly Gonzalez, Samuel Gonzalez (behind GMA) and Petron chair Nicasio I. Alcantara.

SAMUEL and Merly Gonzalez with their six children.

Powerful cleansing and healing elixir

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

IS the apple cider vinegar health program based on fantasy or fact? In my own search for alternative cures, I usually look for scientific as well as historical data and testimonials to support natural healing claims.

Rich source

I have found a rich source of such information in the book "Apple Cider Vinegar Miracle Health System" authored by Paul and Patricia Bragg. This book was given to me by Mr. Benigno Chan, who appreciated the publication of our article on apple cider vinegar. I am sharing with you quotes from the book to further deepen our knowledge about this product:

"Research from around the world supports and commends what Hippocrates found and treated his patients with in 400 B.C.—that natural, undistilled apple cider vinegar (or ACV) is a powerful cleansing and healing elixir for a healthier, stronger, longer life! The versatility of ACV as a powerful body cleansing agent is legendary.

"Since it was discovered in prehistoric times, ACV has been traced to Egyptian urns as far back as 3000 B.C. The Babylonians used it as a condiment and preservative, while Julius Caesar's army had ACV tonic to keep healthy and fight off diseases.

"The Greeks and Romans kept vinegar vessels for healing and flavoring. It was used in Biblical times as an antiseptic healing agent. In Paris in the Middle Ages it was sold from barrels by street vendors as a body deodorant, healing tonic and beverage.

Voyage

"Even Christopher Columbus and his crew on his voyage to discover America in 1492 had their vinegar barrels for prevention of scurvy, as did the soldiers in the American Civil War. For centuries in Japan, the feared Samurai warriors drank it for strength and power.

"Because it eliminates germs, ACV has been used for thousands of years not only for health reasons, but also as a cleansing agent to remove bacteria, germs, odors, and even stains and spots."

A very active proponent of the ACV health program is Paul Bragg, who shares this story about ACV:

"I was raised on a large farm. On this farm, we grew many varieties of apples. I was a great apple eater. In my early youth, I enjoyed robust health. Each year my father made natural apple cider and stored it in wooded barrels. On our table we used this natural apple cider vinegar and our large family loved it." *(To be concluded)*

The (other)

(From page D4)

We regularly glanced at our wristwatches to check the time as we awaited the signal for the start of the rally. We all walked with a buddy or a close-in. Your companion would stick by you through thick and thin to ensure your safety or trace your whereabouts in case of an arrest.

My assigned buddy, Adrian Gutierrez, a rather husky UP Rep member, was burdened by the fact that I was a recognizable participant already with a history of two arrests. We all dressed well so as not to draw suspicion or look like activists on that particular afternoon.

Commotion

All of sudden, there was a commotion. Someone with a megaphone was shouting anti-Martial Law slogans. That was the signal. More slogans denouncing Marcos, US Imperialism and Martial Law were heard in quick succession. We responded with "*Ibagsak*" replies.

The slogans soon echoed around the quiet Luneta Park. Honest-to-goodness park visitors gawked wide-eyed in astonishment at this sudden happening.

Nuns were bringing out banners and posters from bags and other seemingly innocent paraphernalia. These were soon spread for the public to see. Some came closer to read them, while others moved away from the group of demonstrators.

The marshals instructed us to head towards T.M. Kalaw and then towards Taft ave. in front of the Jai Alai for greater public exposure, since the traffic there was thickest. Many jeeps came to a halt to witness the event.

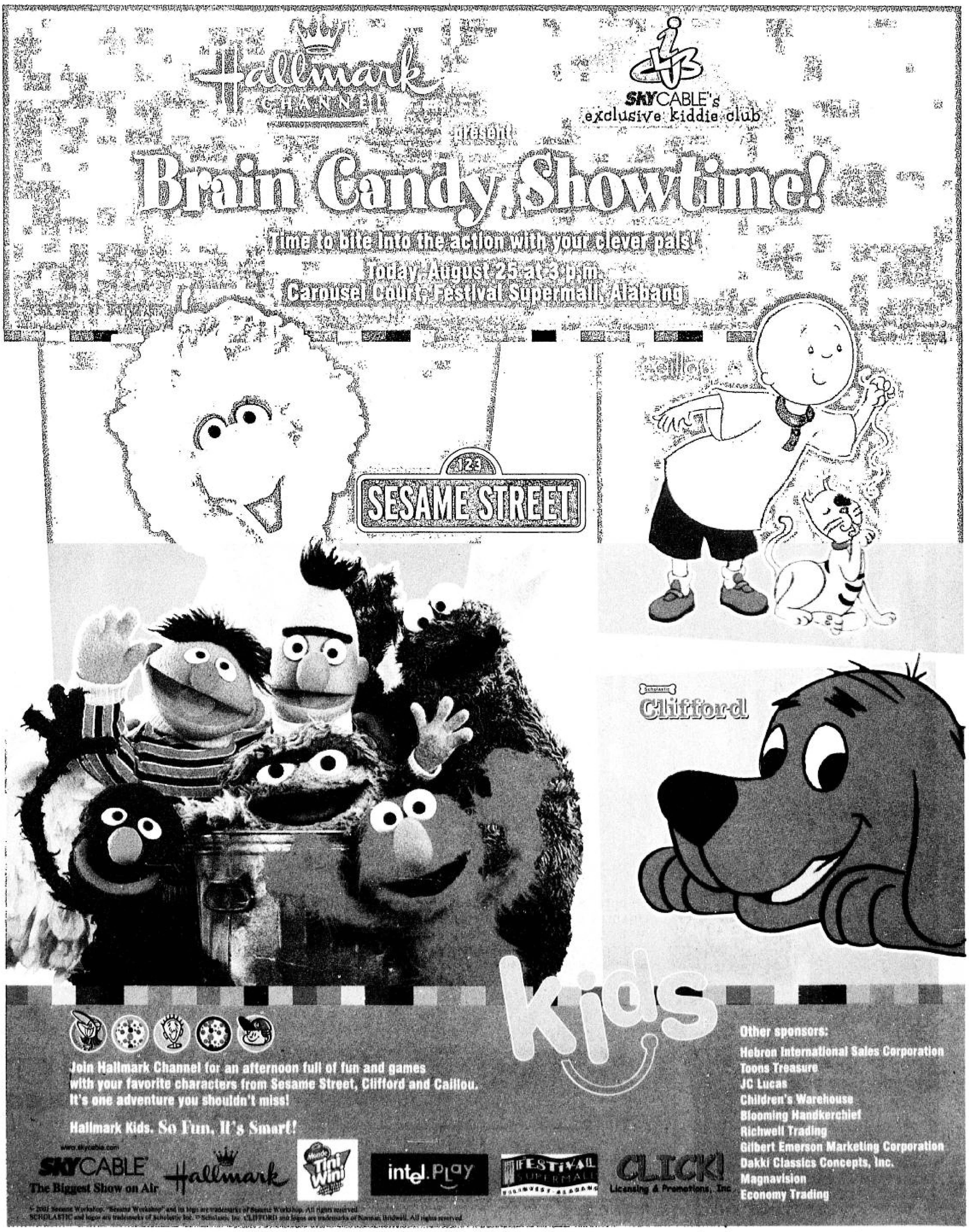
The local and international press went to work. I tried to keep away from the photographers who kept clicking away at me while I shouted slogans. When we got to Taft ave., the police stationed at the United Nations precinct were marching towards us. We continued to agitate the passengers in buses and jeepneys. There were many who openly showed their support.

I saw a woman weeping softly and barely able to raise her voice to say "*Mabuhay kayo!*" That gave me a lump in the throat.

Firemen

Before long we were confronted by helmeted, truncheon-wielding and armor-clad Metrocom. The firemen in their mammoth trucks aimed their hoses at us and gave us all the water power they could muster.

Soon we were wet and also easily identifiable as demonstrators. Adrian and I linked arms as we were slowly but surely being pushed back against a wall by the attacking Metrocom. *(To be concluded)*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Lani Misalucha performs at the Big Dome Sept. 8

MONTAGE

LANI Misalucha performs at the Araneta Coliseum "Lani Misalucha: The Crossover Live Tour," her first major solo concert.

Supported by special guests Martin Nievera, Side A's Joey Generoso and Malik, Lani will be singing some of the numbers from her Crossover concert at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City.

Call 911-5555 or 844-2947.

Powerdance concert

Douglas Nierras Powerdance marks its 13th anniversary with a two-night dance concert "Turn Up the QUIET...Just Dance" tonight at 8 and tomorrow at 5 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater.

To be featured are the dance artists of the Douglas Nierras Powerdance together with the Bayanihan Philippine Folk Dance Company and the Philippine Madrigal Singers. Call 633-6417.

'Erin Brockovich' on HBO

"Erin Brockovich," an inspiring story of how a woman triumphs against overwhelming odds, airs on HBO on Sept. 8 at 9 p.m. The movie stars Julia Roberts, who won this year's Oscar for Best Actress for her portrayal of the tile character. Also starring as her boss is Albert Finney, who was nominated for Best Supporting Actor in this picture.

Anniversary concert

Sti@eighteen.more, a concert headlined by Freestyle, Regine Velasquez and Roselle Nava, goes onstage tonight at 8 at the Folk Arts Theater. The concert caps the four-day celebration marking the 18th anniversary of STI, the largest Information Technology education network in Southeast Asia.

Jessa's latest single

Jessa Zaragoza recently released the third single of her "Ibigay Mo Na" album. The song is "Kung Kailan Pa" and has been getting massive airplay on Manila's OPM radio stations.

Coinciding with the release of the single is the airing of the music video directed by Luigi Santiago and featuring Kenji Marquez and Jessa.

International DJ

After Way Out West released its second album "Intensify" under Distinctive Records last Aug. 20, international disc jockey Nick Warren will come to the Philippines for the formal launch of the album on the first week of September.

Nick Warren started out as a DJ in the city's underground music scene in Bristol. His creativity in coming up with innovative dance music earned him a slot in the Massive Attack DJ Tour in the US.

'Breakfast' on Studio 23

Early birds who want up-to-the-minute news, provocative interviews and the coolest lifestyle trends and trendsetters can tune in daily at 6 a.m. to "Breakfast," which has moved from the ANC news channel to its new home, Studio 23.

The morning show is hosted by five interesting personalities. JC Gonzalez handles lifestyle and sports news in addition to the show's issue-oriented segments. Bambam Aquino takes care of public service and youth-oriented topics. Angel Jacob covers the fashion and young mom scenes. Ria Tanjuatco handles local and international entertainment. Traffic and weather girl Pia Arcangel also writes and reports the news headlines.

MISALUCHA. First major concert.

Dingdong's bar tour

Dingdong Avanzado returns to the concert scene with a bar tour series "Dingdong: Up Close" that kicks off on Sept. 15 at Nth Degree.

This is Dingdong's first concert after his three-year stint as Quezon City councilor. The show features production numbers that highlight the music that the artist is known for—light, easy listening and romantic tunes.

Other shows will be mounted at the Hard Rock Cafe on Sept. 18, O Two Bistro Bar N' Grill on Sept. 21, Friends on Sept. 27, Virgin Cafe on Oct. 2, Ratsky's on Oct. 9 and Captain's Bar on Oct. 16.

'The Green Mile' on Sept. 9

Star Movies will air "The Green Mile" on Sept. 9 at 9 p.m. Set in a Southern prison in 1935, the story revolves around Paul Edgecomb, a prison guard, played by Tom Hanks, who develops an unusual relationship with an inmate who possesses a magical gift.

Kuh in repeat performance

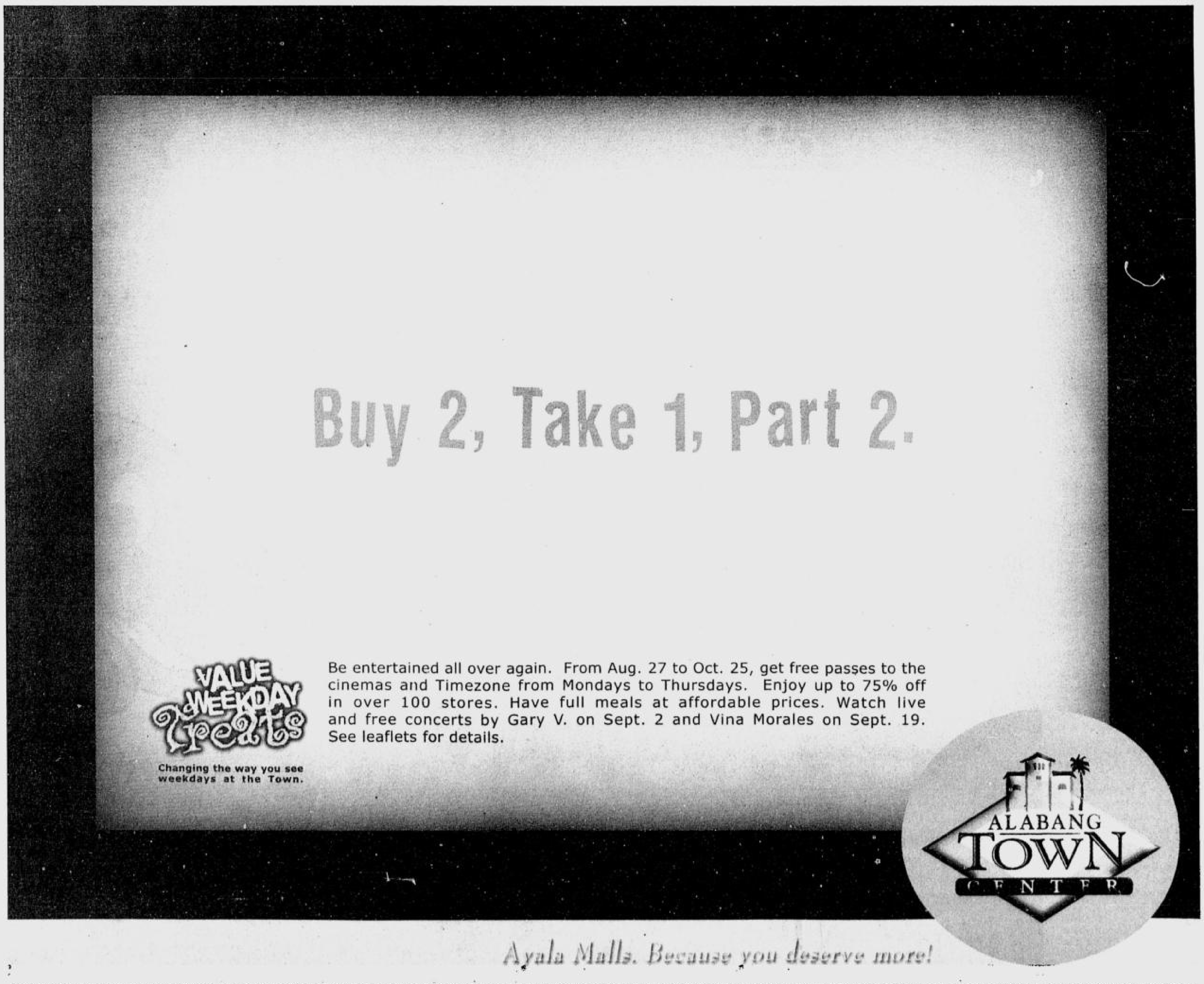
Kuh Ledesma returns to her original home—the Music Museum—for the repeat of her "Kuh Sings Streisand" concert held at the Manila Hotel in June. The show's final performance will be tonight at 9. Kuh will be joined by Chad Borja and Side A's Joey Generoso.

To celebrate her homecoming of sorts, Kuh will roll out a repertoire of classic Streisand hits like "Evergreen," "The Way We Were," "You Don't Bring Me Flowers Anymore" and "People." Call 712-0635.

'Soong Sisters' on cable

"The Soong Sisters," the film that won six awards at the 17th Hong Kong Film Awards including best actress, best art director, and best cinematography will air on the Star Mandarin channel on Aug. 30 at 9 p.m.

The story follows the life of the Soong sisters and their role in a series of historical events from Sun Yat Sen's rise to power to Chiang Kai Shek's reign. The film stars Michelle Yeoh, Maggie Cheung, Vivian Wu, Winston Chiao and Jiang Wen. (***Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam***)



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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0226, Series of 2001

Saturday SPECIAL

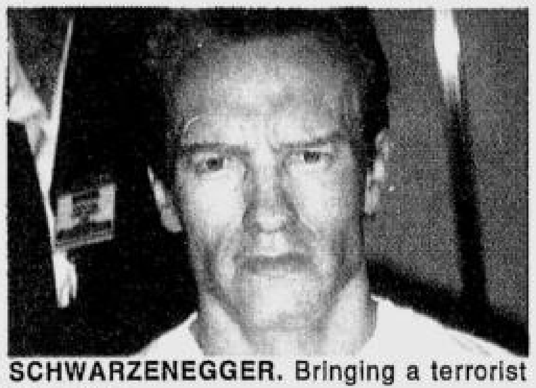
Treat
of the
Week

Mango Fluff

2 170g. cans NESTLÉ CREAM, chilled
2 tbsps. confectioners' sugar
1/4 cup mango purée
2 medium ripe mangoes, sliced into cubes
1 cup NESTLÉ GOLD BREAKFAST CEREALS

Whisk NESTLÉ CREAM, confectioners' sugar, mango purée. Layer in 4 parfait glasses: cream mixture, fruit and cereal. Repeat layering for remaining ingredients ending with cereal. Chill very well before serving.
Servings: 4

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!



SCHWARZENEGGER. Bringing a terrorist to justice.

Schwarzenegger strikes back with 'Collateral Damage'

WHAT would you do if you lost everything? That's what Arnold Schwarzenegger's got to answer—and answer heroically he does—in Andrew Davis' ("The Fugitive") new action-thriller "Collateral Damage" from Warner Bros.

In one moment, L.A. firefighter Gordon Brewer (Schwarzenegger) loses everything that he had ever cared about.

Bomb blast

Running late to meet his wife and young son at a downtown high-rise, he witnesses a catastrophic bomb blast kill his family before his eyes. The explosion is credited to "The Wolf," an infamous rebel leader in Colombia's decades-long civil war. The intended targets were members of the Colombian consulate and American intelligence agents.

Gordon's wife and child are considered "collateral damage"—innocent people who lost their lives for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Gordon's only consolation is the hope that justice will prevail for the loss of his family.

When the official US investigation into the Wolf's whereabouts stalls, Gordon realizes that bringing the terrorist to justice is no longer a priority to anyone but himself.

Warnings

Against the advice of friends and pointed warnings form the CIA and the FBI, Gordon heads to war-torn Colombia to track him down alone.

He puts his life on the line to bring the Wolf to justice but at this point he has nothing left to lose. Gordon's relentless pursuit leads him from the jungles of Colombia back to the streets of Washington where the bomber is preparing to strike again.

SCHWARZENEGGER/p.E2

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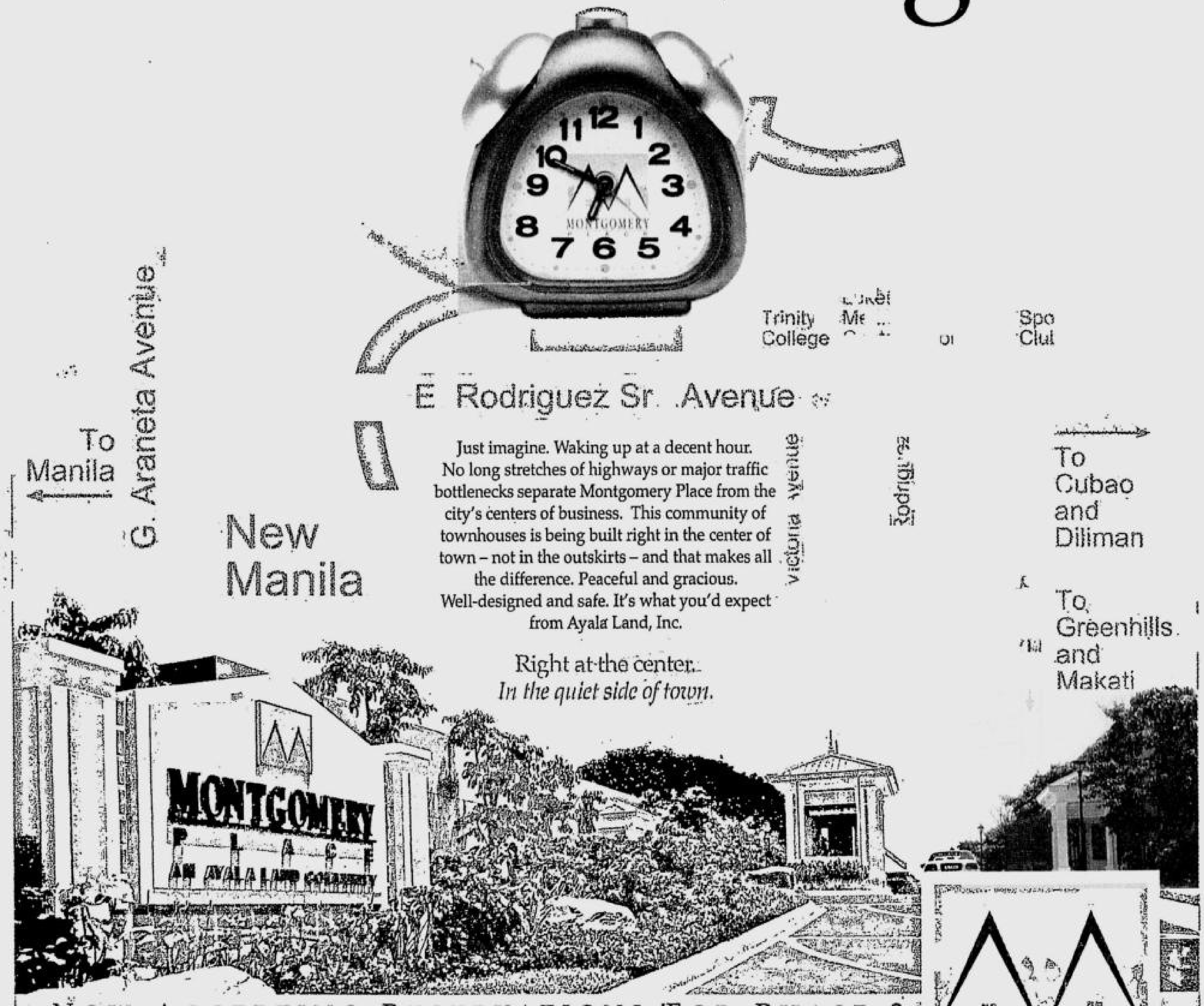

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MOVIE OF THE WEEK

'Shrek' scores with winsome mix of fantasy and satire

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we went to Los Angeles and Palo Alto, California last February to cover the production of DreamWorks/PDI's new animated feature, "Shrek," we noticed that the people working on the film, from producer Jerry Katzenberg on down, were feeling unusually upbeat about the movie's prospects.

Ebullience

Earlier, we had covered DreamWorks' production of "The Prince of Egypt," and we didn't sense the same ebullience in the movie company's animation studios that we felt during our "Shrek" coverage.

It was like Katzenberg and company knew that they were on to a particularly good thing, and this feeling, bolstered by great reactions from test audiences, made their work on the film specially exciting and fulfilling.

Well, they were right. Last month, "Shrek" opened big in the States, and has made a whopping $260M thus far, making it the second most financially successful animated feature of all time, next only to Disney's "The Lion King."

Fine, but how does "Shrek" come off as a film? We got our answer Friday last week, when we waded through flooded streets and beat the traffic to catch a preview of the movie.

Chilly

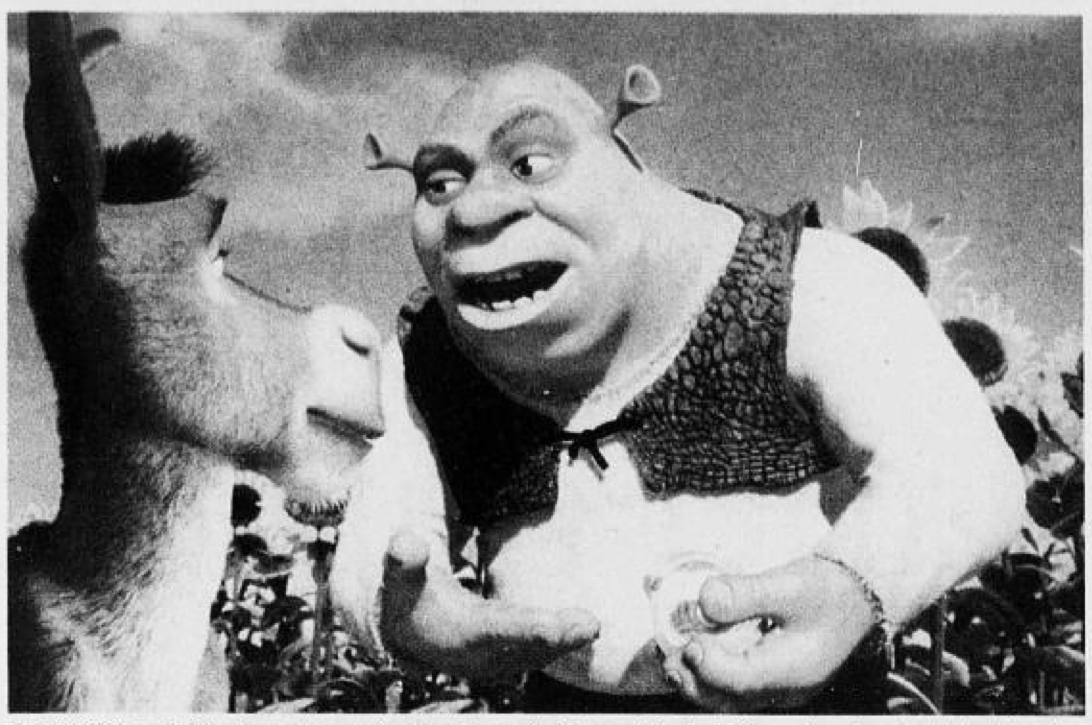
We were feeling chilly and sniffly when the screening started, but the engaging and lighthearted film soon warmed us up as it started to tell its story about a surly and misanthropic ogre (Shrek, the title character), who agreed to rescue a princess for an evil lord, so that he could get to live in his swamp alone again, without the droves of fairytale creatures who had sought refuge there from the nasty lord's similarly evil minions.

The storytelling was a winsome, winning mix of fantasy and satire, and we were quickly brought into an antic world people by interesting, idiosyncratic figures—Shrek, his sidekick Donkey, the feisty Princess Fiona, the megalomaniacal but pint-sized lord, a horrid, fire-breathing dragon that turned comically sweet and coy when it fell in love with Donkey—!

Funny-pathetic

As these unique characters develop, we get to like them immensely—even nasty, little Lord Farquaad, who is ultimately more funny-pathetic than truly horrid.

But, spirited and empathetic though these characters are, the most impressive aspect of the movie is its reinvention of some major elements involved in the animation process.



DONKEY and Shrek make a winning team in DreamWorks' biggest animated blockbuster to date.

Human characters like Princess Fiona and Lord Farquaad aren't just sketched, they emerge as living, "breathing" creatures with bite and edge—a contemporary rendition of fairytale characters that is well-received by today's less fantasticating and more reality-conscious viewers.

Difficult

We can imagine how difficult these technological updates were to pull off, but the production does it without calling excessive attention to its state-of-the-art visual marvels.

Everything is done within the context of the story and its requirements, and "Shrek" comes off *not* as a showcase for technological breakthroughs, but as an enjoyable and empathetic viewing experience.

If true art hides itself, then "Shrek" fits the description of animated cinematic artistry quite nicely. But this is popular art, not the ivory-tower variety, and in this age when artistic accessibility is prized, it looks like that's the way to go.

Stereophonics band knows how to make good music

By Pocholo Concepcion

NOBODY loves you when you're down and out. But there's always good music to lift you up.

There's the music of Stereophonics, otherwise unknown to us, until a few weeks ago.

Stuart Cable (drums), Kelly Jones (vocals, guitars) and Richard Jones (bass) have been around as a group for four years, and are said to have previously done two albums, numerous singles and countless tours.

Village

All three members were born and grew up in a village in South Wales. Kelly Stuart lived on the same street. Richard and Kelly were classmates. At a young age, all three of them were already playing in bands.

The boys experienced hard times playing under the moniker Tragic Love Company (inspired by three of their favorite bands: Tragically Hip, Mother Love Bone, and Bad Company). They were, in a nutshell, not going anywhere.

But a name change, taken from Stuart's old radio set, seemed to have attracted a more pleasant fortune. A year later, Stereophonics had signed a record and publishing deal, played alongside the Manic Street Preachers and the Who, and released its first single.

Debut album

A debut album, "Word Gets Around," was released in August 1997 and entered the UK charts at No. 6, said to be directly a result of "old-fashioned touring." The album eventually went gold and subsequently sold a million copies worldwide.

Its winning recipe: Kelly Jones's inspired tragic-comic observations and rousing, triumphant tunes that are said to have been rooted in a rich vein of rock 'n' roll storytelling—an outlet that has found a connection with an audience that "covered generations, genders and cultural tribes."

In February '98 Stereophonics was hailed as the best new band at the Brit Awards, finally giving the group it first taste of airplay on national radio in England.

No big deal hereabouts?

Good thing BMG Pilipinas has released the latest Stereophonics album, "Just Enough Education To Perform," the better to allow us to appreciate what we may be missing.

True enough, this is a band that knows how to make good music. Quite simply it means knowing how to distill life's endless cycle of sad and happy moments, and express them in an uncomplicated manner—just enough, indeed, for everyone to learn everything by heart and even be able to perform the songs themselves! (And we don't mean doing it in karaoke trash fashion here.)

First impressions

The album starts off with typical rock swaggering noise ("Vegas Two

STEREOPHONICS/ p.E3

THE ANGFOURGETTABLES, from left, Bimbo Cerrudo, Pinky Marquez, Dyords Javier and Isay Alvarez.

Angfourgettables and Anna Fegi take on Downtown this week

IT will be another special musical treat for patrons of Downtown Music Bar at Hotel Rembrandt as the Angfourgettables performs on the 30th of August while Anna Fegi takes center stage today.

Fusion

Seasoned performers as they are individually, Isay Alvarez, Pinky Marquez, Bimbo Cerrudo and Dyords Javier have banded together as Angfourgettables to perform a repertoire highlighted by the creative fusion of musical genres in four-part harmony.

Formed in 1993 and having debuted at the Versomina Lounge in July 2 1993, with a full house and a standing ovation finale, Angfourgettables, after numerous engagements since then, will once again delight the music crowd with their good music and comedy.

Bar tour

Anna Fegi, who is also on a bar tour for her album "Every Step of The Way," goes to Downtown this Saturday for a night of romantic songs.

Her first album form BMG, her single "You and I," composed by Loiue Ocampo and arranged by Jay Durias, is gaining popularity on the airwaves.

Her album, which is composed mostly of English songs, has two revivals and two Tagalog songs "Babalik Ka Ba?" and "Di Ako Iiyak." She also has a duet with international pop singer Christian Wunderlich in "Two Hearts can Beat as One."

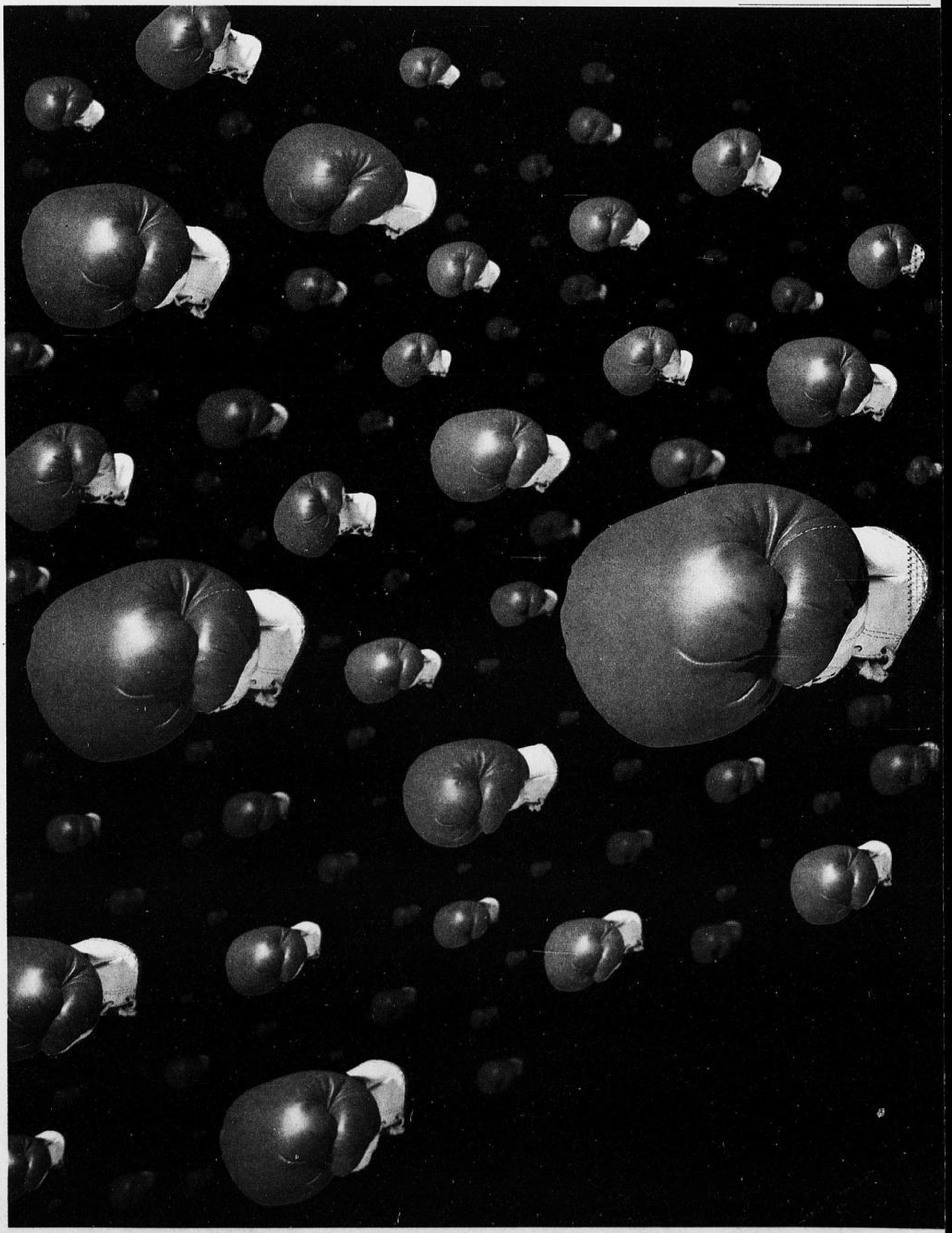
Anna Fegi's guest performer is total performer and Makati City councilor Rico J. Puno.

Schwarzenegger

(From page E1)

Directed by Andrew Davis ("The Fugitive," "A Perfect Murder"), the film also stars Elias Koteas ("The Thin Red Line") as CIA agent Peter Brandt; John Leguizamo ("Moulin Rouge") as Feliz Ramirez, part of The Wolf's inner circle; John Turturro ("O Brother, Where Art Thou?") as Sean Armstrong, who helps Brewer infiltrate the guerilla stronghold; and Italian star Francesca Neri ("Hannibal") as Claudio's wife, Selena.

SCHWARZENEGGER with the child actor who plays his son in Collateral Damage



New Baygon Mosquito Killer with ultra-fine micro mist spray. For the fastest knockdown of Mos

Viva launches an inspiring album with some surprises

By Remy M. Umerez

IF "Servant of all Kids, Sing" were a movie, it would be hailed as star-studded.

The album is the fifth in a series of inspirational albums Jeanne Young has produced for Viva Records. It was conceptualized with children in mind, featuring songs kids can sing along with, as well as prayers they can recite.

Gentle reminder

"The album serves as a gentle reminder of how much God loves children as well as a teaching tool for children, teens and adults alike. It is a joyful collection of songs, prayers and lullabies that everyone will appreciate," says Young.

There are a couple of surprises in the album. Christopher de Leon gets to display his vocal chords with a medley of rock 'n' roll selections in "Sunday School Rock."

Ramon Christopher, his wife Lotlot, daughter Janine and mom Pilita Corrales have a special medley number, too. Their rendition of "Beautiful," "All Day Song" and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" is heartwarming.

TV host Christine Bersola is another delightful surprise in the album as she revives the classic tune, "Someone's Waiting For You."

Respect for elders

At a time when respect for elders is ignored by many who belong to Generation X, the cut "Paggalang (Po, Opo)" is a must to listen to. It is performed by former teen actor Adrian Panganiban and CJ and Chevy Mercado.

Divas Lani Misalucha and Verni Varga took time out to wax two lilting numbers. Lani opens the album with her interpretation of "Sing" together with the Edsa Shrine Kids, while Verni comes up with a soulful "Jesus Loves Me (This I Know)."

Cocoy Laurel is joined by niece Denise Laurel and the Edsa Shrine Kids for a bouncy number, "Father Abraham."

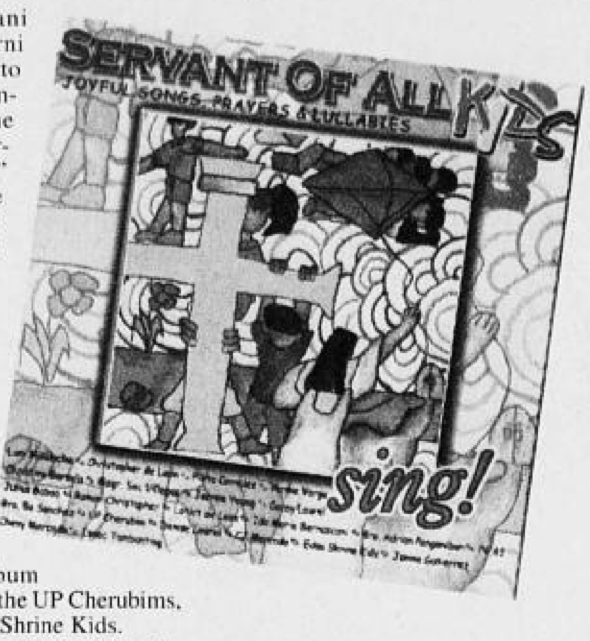
Children play an important role in the album with the presence of the UP Cherubims, PG 13 and the Edsa Shrine Kids.

Other talents who contributed to the production of the album are Julius Babao and Isaac Tambunting saying The Lord's Prayer, and Sandy Andolong with "I Said a Prayer For You Today." Bro. Bo Sanchez, Bishop Soc Villegas and Ida Marie Bernasconi also lend their talents to the production of the album.

Winner

"Kids Sing" also features the work of promising Smokey Mountain artist, 11-year-old Eldrine Santiago, winner of on-the-spot drawing contest. The contest theme was "Jesus as Seen Through the Eyes of A Child."

In another Viva movie launch, Andrew E. has finished the project called "Banyo Queen," with Andrew playing Drew, a maintenance man in a small hotel in Malate who responds to Angelie, a vampire in search of a male virgin. Drew discovers he has brain tumor and he desperately wants to live. Mystica plays Rica's aunt.



"SERVANT OF ALL KIDS, SING." Star-studded album for children.

Authentic Chinese cuisine at North Park

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THE VERY first fast food mall was put together in 1973 at the Makati Comercial Center. It was one of the most amazing and confusing sights to see. You couldn't decide which outlet to choose from.

Creation

Around that time, too, a new Chinese fastfood store was making waves. Ling Nam was the creation of Mr. Robert Kuan. This culinary genius' idea was simple: to offer straightforward, inexpensive Chinese food with a slightly *Pinoy* taste to it.

After the success of Ling Nam came the birth of Chow King, and the rest is history. (Robert just opened at the Rockwell center.)

Competition in the Chinese food business has become stiff, and price is no longer the main factor. Today, authenticity in taste plays the biggest role.

Many foodies know what Hong Kong food tastes like. It is because of this exposure that local standards for Chinese cooking have gone up.

To develop a winner, good, authentic Chinese cuisine must be part of the formula.

I met Gabby and Paeng Soong when I sampled the fare at their restaurant along Wilson st. many years ago. I was so impressed with their food that I had to meet them. Nice to talk with people who have the same interest!

Food lovers

These brothers are food lovers. And apart from their passion to eat, both are great cooks. With so much talent, they set up what is North Park, one of the two authentic, reasonably-priced Chinese fast-food restaurants in Manila. Most of the popular dishes here are what are popular in Hong Kong. Here are the dishes that I particularly fancy:

I love to start with their Pinsec Frito—crispy fried huge and stuffed wanton wrappers with a reddish sweet and sour sauce.

I take home their *Taipao* and *asado siopao*. These I pop into the microwave and heat for about a minute, and I have myself a delicious midnight snack.

I love their beef tendon with noodles, dried or with soup. These are not fat but tendon is part of the bone, so it is not as "guilt-giving" as a pork *pata*, for instance. A popular fried rice is the Fookien-style fried rice with sauce. This is wet fried rice. Very popular, but I prefer the salted fish fried rice. Alone, it is a complete meal.

Roast duck

I also like the king Dao spare ribs and Salted garlic squid. When available and specially when newly cooked, the roast duck is also a winner. They also have a dish called double pork rib, which is anise-flavored crunchy pork. This I love to eat "*karpintero*" style: *Konting ulam* with mounds of rice. The lemon juice is also popular.

It is interesting to know that these brothers are health-conscious. For most of their dishes, they use canola oil, the one with the least saturated fat.

I suspect one source of ideas for these brothers is Vancouver, where they have one of the best Chinese food places in the world.

When a craving for authentic Hong Kong cuisine comes up, I drive to one of their branches—North Park-Ayala Alabang, Makati ave. tel. 896-3475, 896-3482, 896-3490, Banawe tel. 413-7063, 412-9459, 412-9505, and Wilson in Greenhills tel. 725-9439, 725-8653, 725-7348. Check them out!

Happy Eating!

ANNA Lee and Cookie Monster at the Click Retail and Licensing Show.

Hallmark Channel events for kids

THE HALLMARK Channel pushes its Kids Block programming with exciting social events for children. Last Aug. 9 and 10, it took part in the "Click Retail and Licensing Show," an exhibit of merchandise for children at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Click is the exclusive retailer of products based on the characters of "Sesame Street" and "Clifford," which both air on the Hallmark Channel.

Event

The Hallmark Channel and Sky Cable will jointly hold an I-Club get-together at the Festival Mall Alabang today at 3 p.m. The event is organized exclusively for members of Sky Cable's I-Club and will feature fun activities like face painting, balloon sculpting, Hallmark Kids Classroom and Sesame Street photo corner. Children will also be treated to Hallmark Kids film and video showings as well as a personal appearance of Sesame Street favorite Cookie Monster.

Finally, fans of "Sesame Street" will get a special visit from the show's mascots as the Hallmark Channel takes the award-winning program to schools around the Philippines. The "Sesame Street" school tour will pass through Metro Manila and Cebu, showcasing program episodes complete with interactive sessions for students. The Hallmark Channel will also throw in free food and goodie bags.

Special place

The Hallmark Channel Kids Block offers children a special place with daily programming, which entertain, educate and stoke the imagination. Tune in weekdays from 7 to 8 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for shows that meet the parents' desire to help kids excel and get the most out of life.

The Hallmark Channel, seen on Home Cable's Channel 25, Sky Cable's Channel 38, Destiny Cable Channel 25 and local Cable Boss affiliates throughout the Philippines, is a 24-hour global cable and satellite channel that delivers original, award-winning movies and miniseries throughout Europe, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East.

Stereophonics. . .

(From page E2)

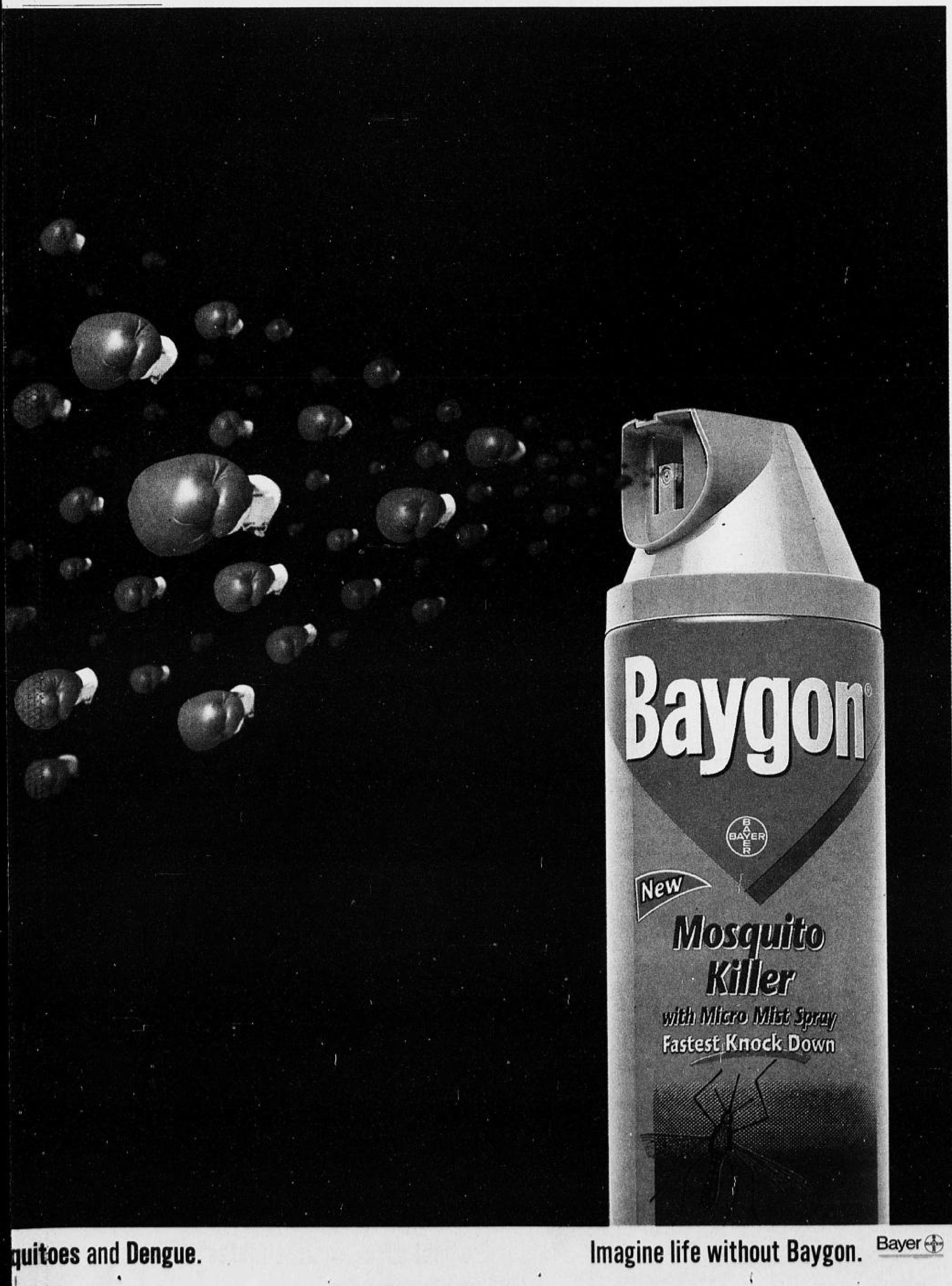
Times"), its lyrics alluding to first impressions of visits to Las Vegas and L.A.

However, the succeeding tracks ("Lying in the Sun," "Mr. Writer," "Step on My Old Size Shoes") call attention mainly through their introspection and intimate communication.

The world-weary yet hopeful-sounding voice of Kelly Jones that echoes his songwriting is a striking element throughout the album that may affect you in no small way. In fact it's the most endearing aspect that could lead us to understand pain and loneliness, rejection and failure, acceptance and redemption.

These songs are not exactly the answer to the meaning of life. They may not even suit the taste of the majority of restless youth out there. Yet there should be no reason for them to ignore this kind of music. Certainly it rocks. The baby-boomer folks would like it. And yet it can be popular as well with the text generation.

Stereophonics might even save us from hating our-



REDFORD and Pitt star in "Spy Game."

New films provide striking showcases for major US stars

By Nestor U. Torre

HOLLYWOOD'S current Golden Boy, Brad Pitt, is supposed to be this screen generation's Robert Redford. So, what would be more natural—and exciting—than to cast Redford and his younger version in one film?

Protegee

That much-awaited project is "Spy Game," where Redford plays a veteran CIA agent who's just about to retire. But he has to get back in harness for a final time to rescue his protege (Pitts) from a Chinese prison, where he's being held captive on an epsionage charge.

Another big-star vehicle that will be shown before the end of the year is "Vanilla Sky," which topbills Tom Cruise and his current squeeze, Penelope Cruz. Cameron Diaz is also in the stellar cast, but the Cruise-Cruz (!) romance threatens to completely upstage her.

Obsessive

Anyway, the film is the English-language version of a Spanish film, "Abre los Ojos," that Cruise bought the rights to, and got Cameron Crowe to direct. In the movie, Tom and Penelope fall passionately in love, but his ex, played by Cameron, turns obsessive. Hmm, looks like Ms Diaz won't be upstaged after all...

For his part, John Travolta is starring in a psychological thriller, "Domestic Disturbance," as a divorced man who suspects that his son is not being treated right by his ex-wife's new husband (Vince Vaughn).

Vaughn is one of the most talented and charismatic new stars in Hollywood, so his adversarial role versus Travolta promises a lot of dramatic sparks that could make the movie a thespic treat. Travolta will give as much as he takes in their one-on-one confrontation. that's for sure.

Dramatic highlights

Will Smith has his next movie all to himself, but it won't be wanting in terms of dramatic highlights because it's "Ali," and Smith plays no less than the young Cassius Clay, *aka* Muhammad Ali, regarded by some as the greatest boxing champion of all time.

Initially, one would think that the generally cheeky and blithe Smith wouldn't be able to do justice to Ali's complex character, but advance word has it that his performance gets completely under Ali's skin and into his guts. So, an Oscar nomination is a distinct possibility.

What about former young superstar Leonardo DiCaprio? He was on top of the world in "Titanic," then slipped in his succeeding screen outsings, but he fully intends to reclaim the ground he's lost with his controversial new starrer, "Gangs of New York," directed by Martin Scorsese, no less.

Unbeatable combination

The DiCaprio-Scorsese tandem promises to be an unbeatable combination that will give the film a lot of advance hype just before it's shown, so things *are* looking up for Leo.

In the seething, streetwise urban drama, DiCaprio witnesses the murder of his father and is quietly, patiently hell-bent on revenge. A great showcase for a former box-office champion who wants to prove that he's far from being the young has-been that some people think he is.

Ateneo Art Gallery unveils new acquisitions

ON the occasion of the 77th birth anniversary of the late painter and art educator Fernando Zobel de Ayala, the Ateneo Art Gallery is pleased to renew the philanthropic spirit of its founding benefactor when the country's first modern art museum unveils its latest trove of art gifts on Aug. 27, Monday, at 5:30 p.m.

"Unwrapping: New Acquisitions of the Ateneo Art Gallery" features the works of visual artists Araceli Limcaco Dans, Fil Delacruz, Luis Leon Lasa, Victoria Lobregat, Conrado Mercado and Susan Fetalvero-Roces.

Form and substance

Dans' "Pasalubong ni Inay II" reveals the artist's meticulous penchant for compositional rectitude. Best known for her renditions of delicately draped *callado* piña cloth in homely settings, the tension of form and substance in her still-lifes allow her to cross over from the purely decorative.

It is a quality that is also shared by Susan Fetalvero-Roces's large "Prayers I Say Everyday," a finalist in last year's Philippine Art Awards sponsored by the Philip Morris Group of Companies. It consists of multiple leaf patterns projecting a fresh vigor and symbolic resonance. Gold and silver applique matched to a series of stretched strings on canvas are just some of the elements that make up the ordered universe of this local art scene stalwart.

One of the country's leading exponents of graphic art, Fil Delacruz is represented in the Gallery's Print & Drawing Room by three original fine prints all dealing with the artist's exaltation of human figures and idealized images drawn from the natural environment.

Mezzotint

One is a mezzotint, "Transmogrification," a grand prize winner at the 1982 AAP Annual Art Competition. Another is a lithograph, "Dilim at Liwanag," an ethnic evocation of the mother and child motif. By far the most interesting, from an educational point of view, are three final states of a mezzotint print, "Logger's Haven," together with six preliminary copies showing subtly different stages of its graphic development. Also part of this set is a charcoal study.

A novel contribution to the Gallery's Print & Drawing Room is a group of 23 caricatures by the late Filipino-Spanish editorial artist Luis Leon Lasa, whose highly stylized abstract figures were harnessed in often sardonic sketches of Spain's social and political elite.

There are also caricatures of such celebrities of yesterday as India's Indira Gandhi, heavyweight boxer Joe Louis, soprano Maria Callas, and movie stars Brigitte Bardot, Rita Hayworth, Spencer Tracy, James Stewart and Marlon Brando. Lasa's works to be unveiled attest to the high regard he enjoyed in Madrid's art circles and serve as foretaste of a homecoming the Gallery is organizing in December.'

Postmodernism

Similarly celebrated in her adoptive country, the Filipino-Australian Victoria Lobregat foregrounds the hybrid tendencies of postmodernism. An early work, "Dalai Lama Wheel of Fortune," clues viewers into the spiritual references redolent in her art. They are strikingly apparent in her wall-size "Cloud of Flowers {Variation)," a 32-piece, mixed-media mosaic of ready-made objects with verbal texts.

It forms half of a mural Lobregat originally showed at the Sydney Museum of Contemporary Art in 1998 when she was selected to participate in its annual "Primavera" exhibit as one of Australia's most significant young, contemporary artists.

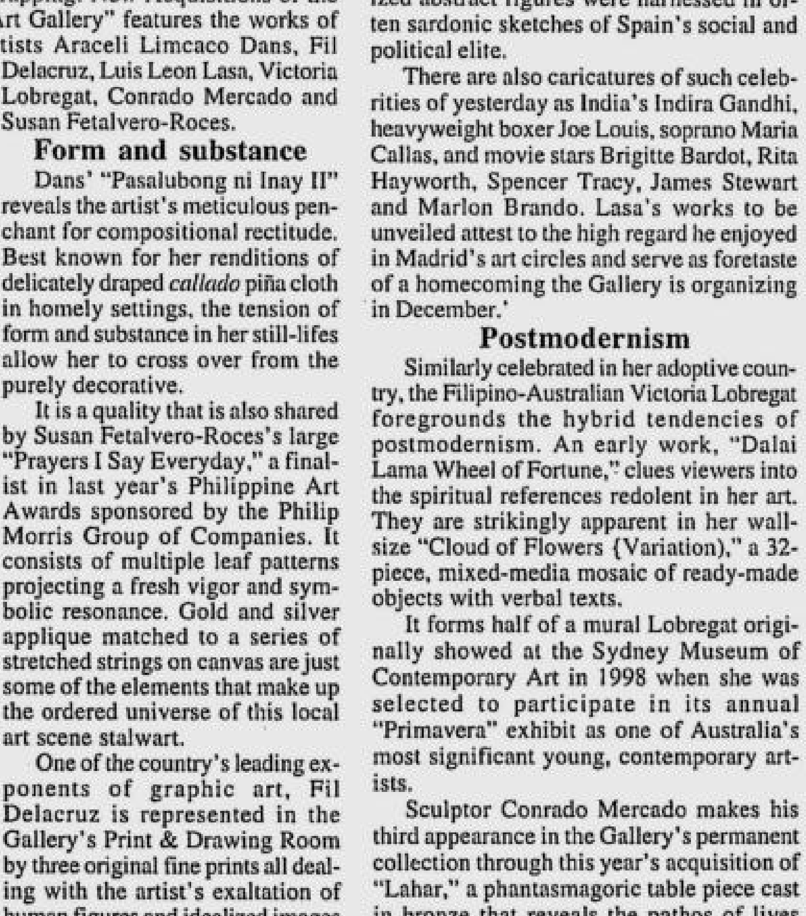
Sculptor Conrado Mercado makes his third appearance in the Gallery's permanent collection through this year's acquisition of "Lahar," a phantasmagoric table piece cast in bronze that reveals the pathos of lives scarred by Mount Pinatubo's eruption in 1991. Its donor is Ateneo alumnus Cesar Luis Bate.

Starbucks Coffee is sponsoring the unveiling program.

The Ateneo Art Gallery is at the ground floor of the Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University. Museum Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturday. Closed Sundays and holidays. Admission is free.

Call 426-6001, ext. 4160.

Featured are works by Araceli Dans and five other artists



DANS' "Pasalubong ni Inay II" reveals the artist's penchant for compositional rectitude and vivifies her signature rendition of delicately draped *callado* piña cloth.

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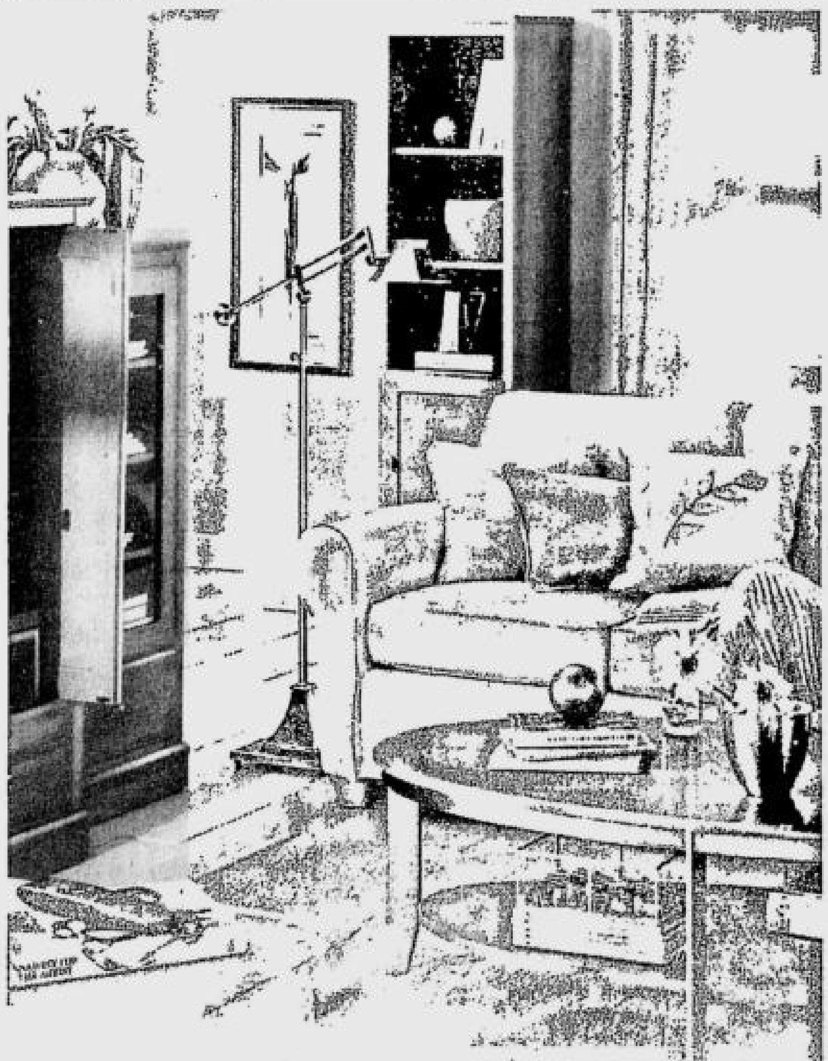

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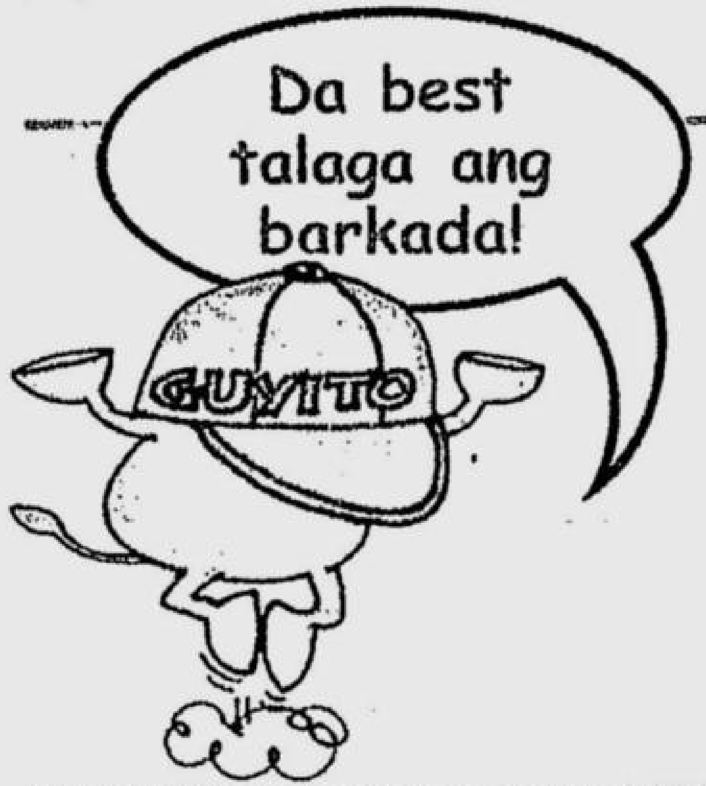
Da best talaga ang barkada!
GUYITO

Junior INQUIRER

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The Boys from Pasig

A basketball barkada shines in the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2001

BY **CHRISTINE C. RIVERO**

SECOND PLACE felt almost as good as first to friends Elmark Sotto, Jomer Amistoso, John Victor Reyes and Jobert Estanislao.

"We didn't even think we'd make it to the championships," says the spiky-haired team captain, John.

"The players from all the other teams were taller than us," Jobert, the smallest member of their team, points out.

"We only wanted to have an adventure while playing basketball," adds Elmark, the guy who got their team together.

All three boys are 11 years old. As they spoke, the eldest member of their team, 12-year-old Jomer, smiled and quietly nodded his head.

The best of Bagong Ilog

These four kids have been playing basketball with each other since they were little. "We've been playing basketball almost every day," says Elmark.

Neighbors in Bagong Ilog, Pasig, they learned to play using this goal some grown-ups put up on their street. That kind of early training turned out to be perfect for the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2001.

It was Elmark's idea to enter their gang as a team. While walking in a mall, he spotted a poster about the Adidas event. Only four people were needed to form a team and he immediately thought of his buddies back home. After getting permission from their parents, the four friends started training.

"They didn't have a coach," Elmark's mom informed us, "they just decided to train themselves."

Every day after school, she saw them playing at the makeshift court until it was time to go home for dinner.

"Then on weekends, Elmark would wake his friends up early so that they could go jogging," she adds, proudly.

"MATRIX" moves or mad scramble for the ball.

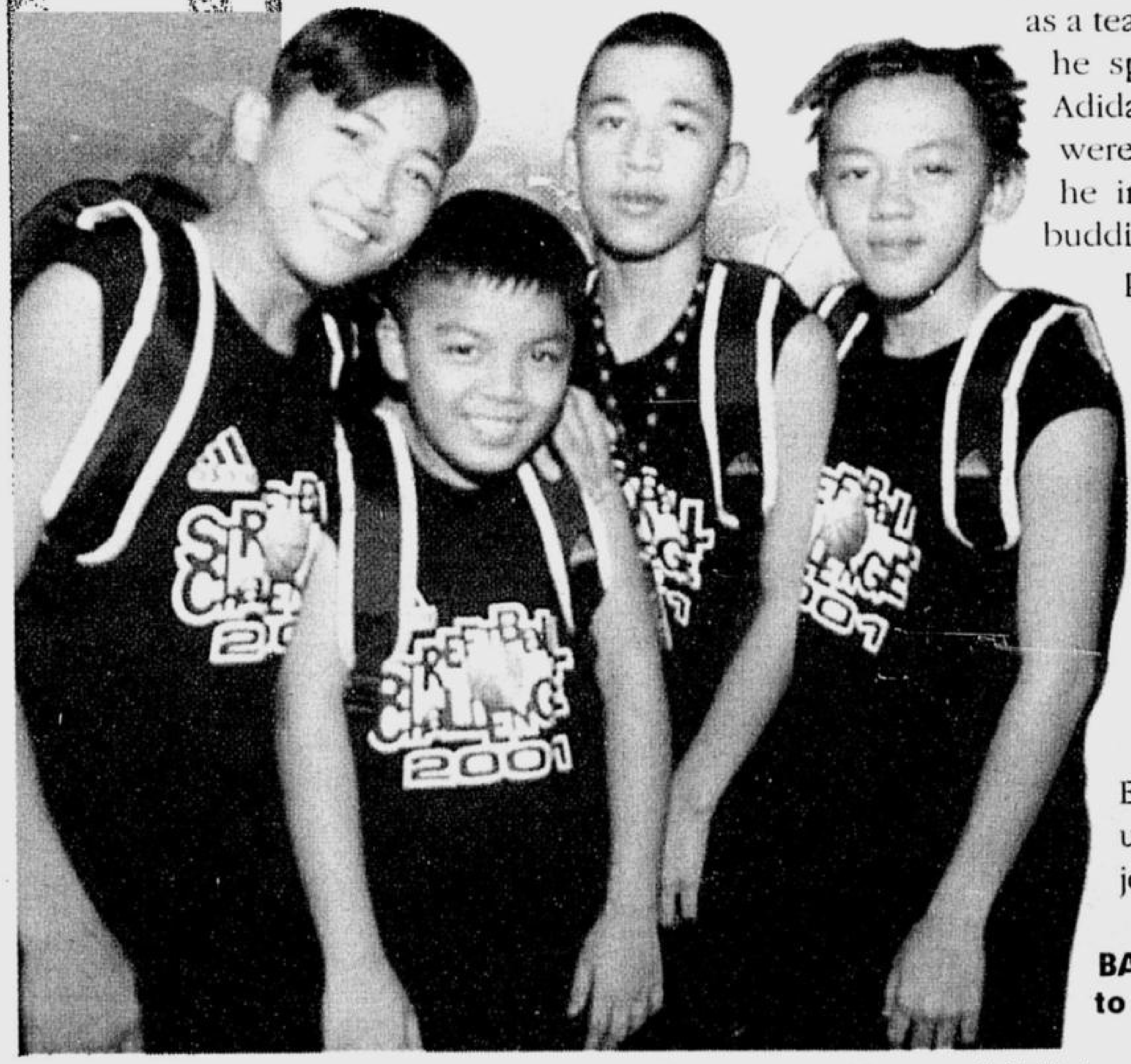
Photos by BETOY JOHNSON

It was decided that John, being the shooting expert, would be the team captain. Elmark and Jomer played center and forward, respectively. Jobert would be their reliable substitute.

Eliminations started in June. From the beginning, the four boys made a great showing in the Midgets division which they entered. They beat other schools in Metro Manila who not only had more formal training, but who also had their coaches with them.

By Aug. 12, the boys could barely believe their luck. Not only were they the reigning champs of NCR, they were going to vie for the championships against the team from the University of San Carlos in Cebu.

The Boys/p.3



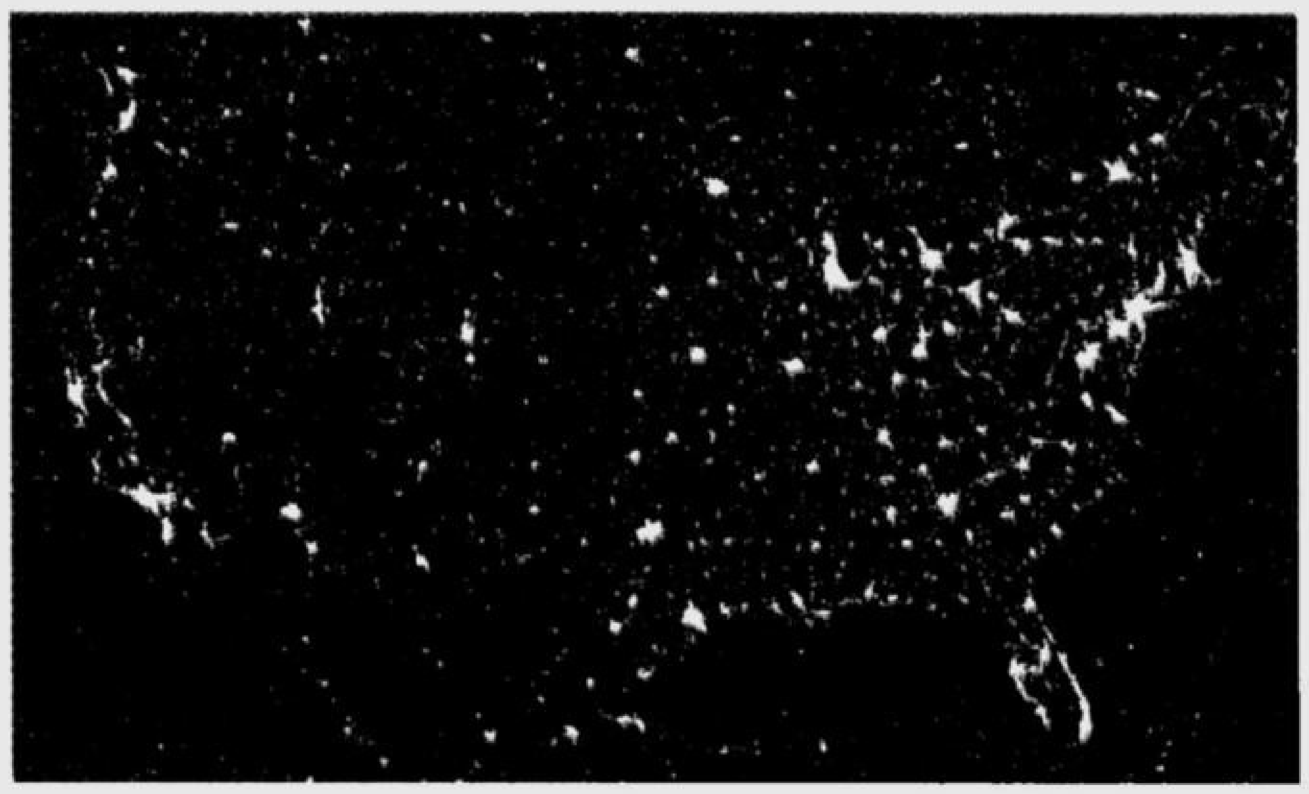
BASKET BUDDIES 4-EVER. (From left) Jomer, Jobert, Elmark and John hope to play in the same basketball team when they grow up.

Harry Potter Card Game

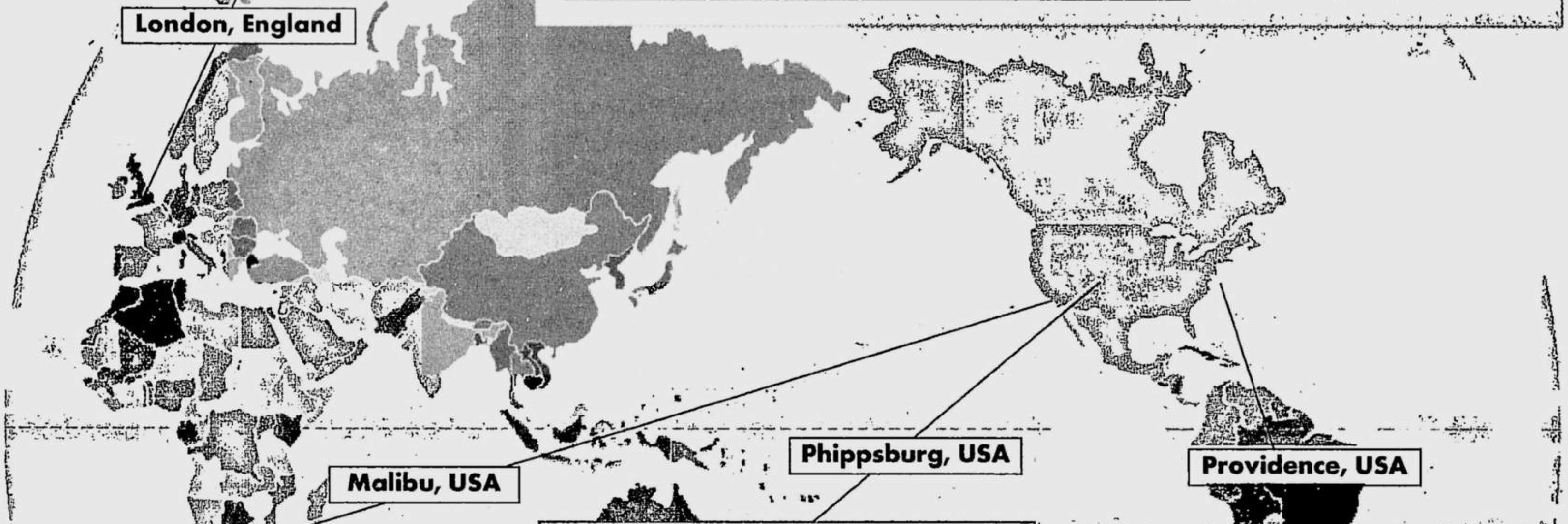
IAN Blatcher looks at the new "Harry Potter" trading card game in the Guildhall of London. Launched early this month, the game is based upon the Pokémon card game and includes characters, creatures and wizard spells from the books by J.K. Rowling. A film based on the book is due out in November this year. **AP**

WORLD SCOPE

Less Starry Nights



THIS undated black and white handout composite satellite image shows the nighttime glow of artificial lights across the United States. According to the "World Atlas of the Artificial Night Sky Brightness," one in five human beings cannot see the Milky Way at night, due to the light pollution caused by artificial illumination. **AP**



Polluted Beach

A PELICAN stands next to a sign advising swimmers to avoid the water as beach-goers pass in the background at Malibu Lagoon at Surfrider Beach in Malibu, California. A report said beach closures in the United States, about a third of which involved pollutants due to sewage and storm drain runoff, doubled in 2000 over 1999. **AP**

Bird antics

AN AGGRESSIVE seagull makes off with part of a sandwich that was stolen from a woman picnicking at Popham Beach in Phippsburg, Maine. People who leave their food-laden belongings unattended quickly find a gang of these birds rifling through their stuff. **AP**

Ice candy for elephants

ALICE, Ginny and Katie, three 16-year-old African elephants at the Roger Williams Park Zoo, in Providence, Rhode Island, are treated to two 300-pound blocks of ice while trainer Lisa Ruggiero looks on. Zoo officials said the ice was to help keep the elephants active as temperatures rose into the 90s after reaching 95 degrees on Tuesday. **AP**

The Boys from Pasig

(from page 1)

CEBU CHAMPS bask in their prizes.

WHEN there's a wheel, there's a way. . .

Photos by BETOY JOHNSON

Good game

It was a close fight. When the buzzer finally rang out, though, the score was 10-8 in favor of Cebu. "They had better shooters," says Elmark of the winning team, "they were really good."

The boys were disappointed but they recovered quickly. After all, they did really well for a group of friends who were just looking for "adventure" and a good ball game.

They didn't go home empty-handed either. As second placers, they took home not only medals and a trophy but also P10,000 worth of Adidas products and P5,000 cash.

Most of all, says John, "We met players who came from far away. Even if we were from different teams, we were able to make friends with them."

The whole experience was simply a lot of fun.

It's as easy as 3-on-3

STREETBALL is basically basketball played on the street. Most of the same rules apply with certain specific differences. In streetball, for instance, each team has only four members—three players and one substitute. The game is also played on only one goal and the size of the court is about half that of a regular basketball court. The game time is also shorter. For the Adidas Streetball Challenge, each game during the eliminations lasted for 15 minutes while championship games ran for 20 minutes each.

ICE CREAM Nestlé

KIMY Swirls & Jelly Jiggle Spell a Win Contest!

Thousands of Splatter Balls have been won too!

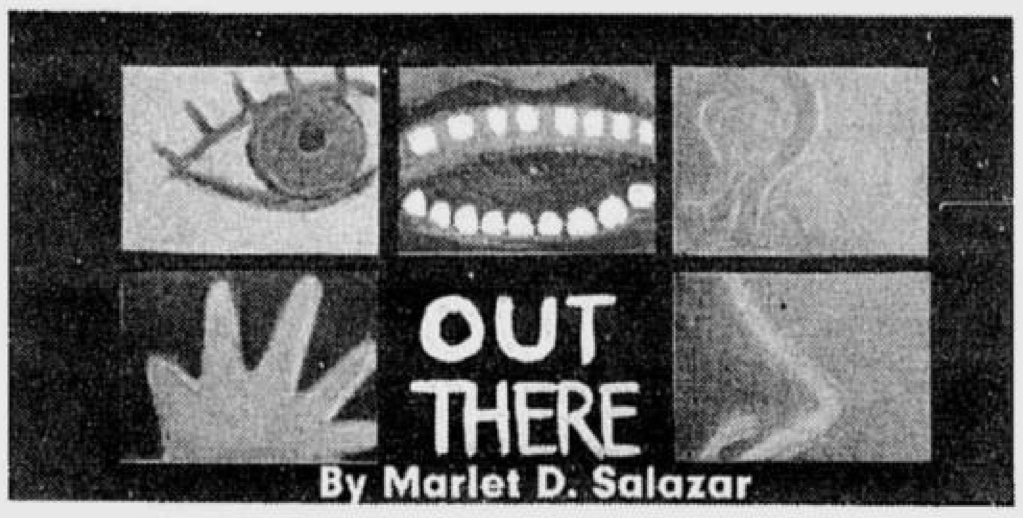
Congratulations to our first batch of Gameboy Advance winners!

Jericho A. Ralines
Xavier University
Cagayan de Oro
Gameboy Winner

Chelsea Lenne Lomibao
Immaculate School
Pasig
Gameboy Winner

Glorylyn Armea
Jubilee Christian Academy
Gameboy Winner

Divine Grace Santos
Las Piñas
Gameboy Winner



OUT THERE

By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

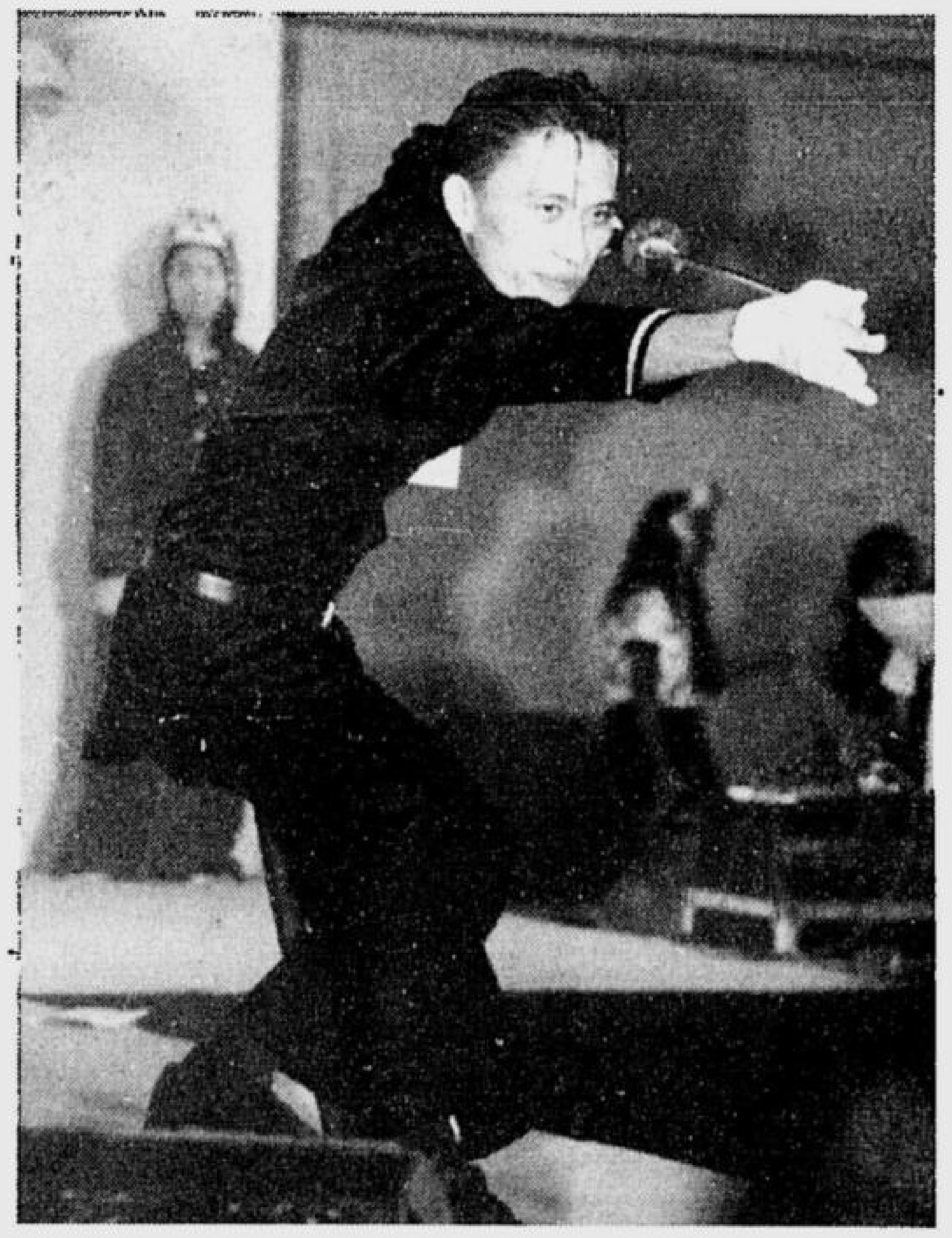
Activities

BOOK LAUNCH. Check out the new titles published by Adarna Books and Unicef when they are launched on the Sept. 3, National Book Day, at the Function Room A, Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall at 4 p.m. There will be a storytelling show for each story and book signing by the writers and artists. The books are now available in leading bookstores.

GRAND POKEMON DAY. Get ready tomorrow, the Grand Pokemon event is going full blast at SM Megatrade Hall. The Grand Pokemon Day will pit the very young to the not-so-very-young to the card game championship. During the whole day affair, kids will be treated to the wondrous world of chocolaity Nestle Chocolait and those pocket monsters. Chuckie will also be there to provide some entertainment. Be there tomorrow Pokemon fans!

Film Showing

ANIME ON PARADE. It's time for the anime film festival at the UP Film Center, CCP Audio Visual Room and Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Check out the titles and schedules: "The White Snake," considered the first Japanese full-length colored animation film; "Akira," a cult favorite among the anime fans; "The Orphan Brother," is about two brothers sold to a powerful chieftain who also has two sons. Anime on Parade will have screenings on Aug. 27-30 at the CCP Audio Visual Room; Aug. 31-Sept. 4 Cinema 2 Shangri-La Plaza Mall. For inquiries call the Japan Foundation Manila at 811-6155 to 58.



ROGER MARGALLO

COSPLAY CHAMP. Just FYI anime fans: JM Chua as Saito Hajime of "Samurai X" won the Cosplay Grand Prize in the Hong Kong Comics Fest and Cyber Carnival last month. Congrats JM!

Contests

ABKD POSTER-MAKING. What would you do in times of disaster? Join the annual "Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata" or ABKD. The contest aims to inform children that they can be of help to the community when disaster strikes. There are two categories: Category A is open to kids ages 7-9; Category B for ages 10-12 years old. For each category, children can choose from a set of disaster types the subject of their design. Deadline is on Sept. 20. For more important info, visit any DECS regional and division offices for brochures and posters, CEAP regional offices and schools. Or you can call up 414-5275, 929-9822.

CARD-MAKING. Love making cards for family and friends? Join Sacred Heart School's On-the-Spot Card-Making Contest. Open to kids 3-12 years old, the contest is set on Sept. 16. Interested parties may call 636-1277 or 631-9759. Or visit them at Unit 515, 5/L Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Exhibit

ANG INK IS TEN! The Metropolitan Museum Manila presents an exhibition celebrating 10 years of published and unpublished works by members of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan. This show will be on view at the Upper Level Galleries of the Met Museum until Sept. 1. Ang INK was formed afer 26 of its members attended a picture book illustration workshop at the Goethe Institut Manila in 1991. Since then, Ang INK has been involved in book projects that have earned for them both local and international recognition such as the Prix Noma Concours at the Bologna Children's Book Fair; PBBY Illustrator's Prize, the AAP Awards, the Metrobank Art Competition, the Philip Morris Art Awards, the National Book Awards given by the Manila Critics' Circle, and the Pearl Award by the Reading Association of the Philippines.

Watch out for. . .

ASIAN ARTS FEST. On Sept. 15-25, selected young artists will showcase their talents in Anak-Anak Asia, a festival of Asian children's arts Catch this at various sites in Marikina City, Shangri-La Plaza and the National Arts Center in Makiling Laguna. For more details call up the Philippine High School for the Arts Manila office at 832-3665 or (049) 536-5973.

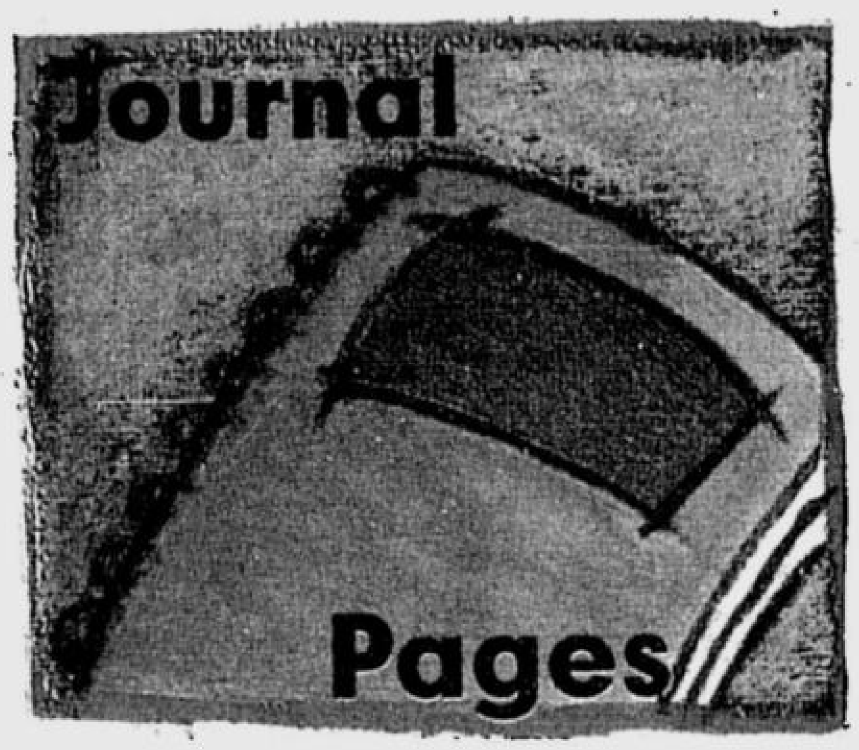
Museum Moments

TRAVELING EXHIBIT. Museo Pambata launches its 4th traveling exhibit titled "Iba't-ibang Kamay, Iisang Buhay...Filipino." It is a hands-on showcase of traditional Filipino arts and crafts sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. "Iba't-ibang Kamay, Iisang Buhay...Filipino" is set on Aug. 30, 2 p.m. in Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard, corner South Drive, Manila.

Cable Picks

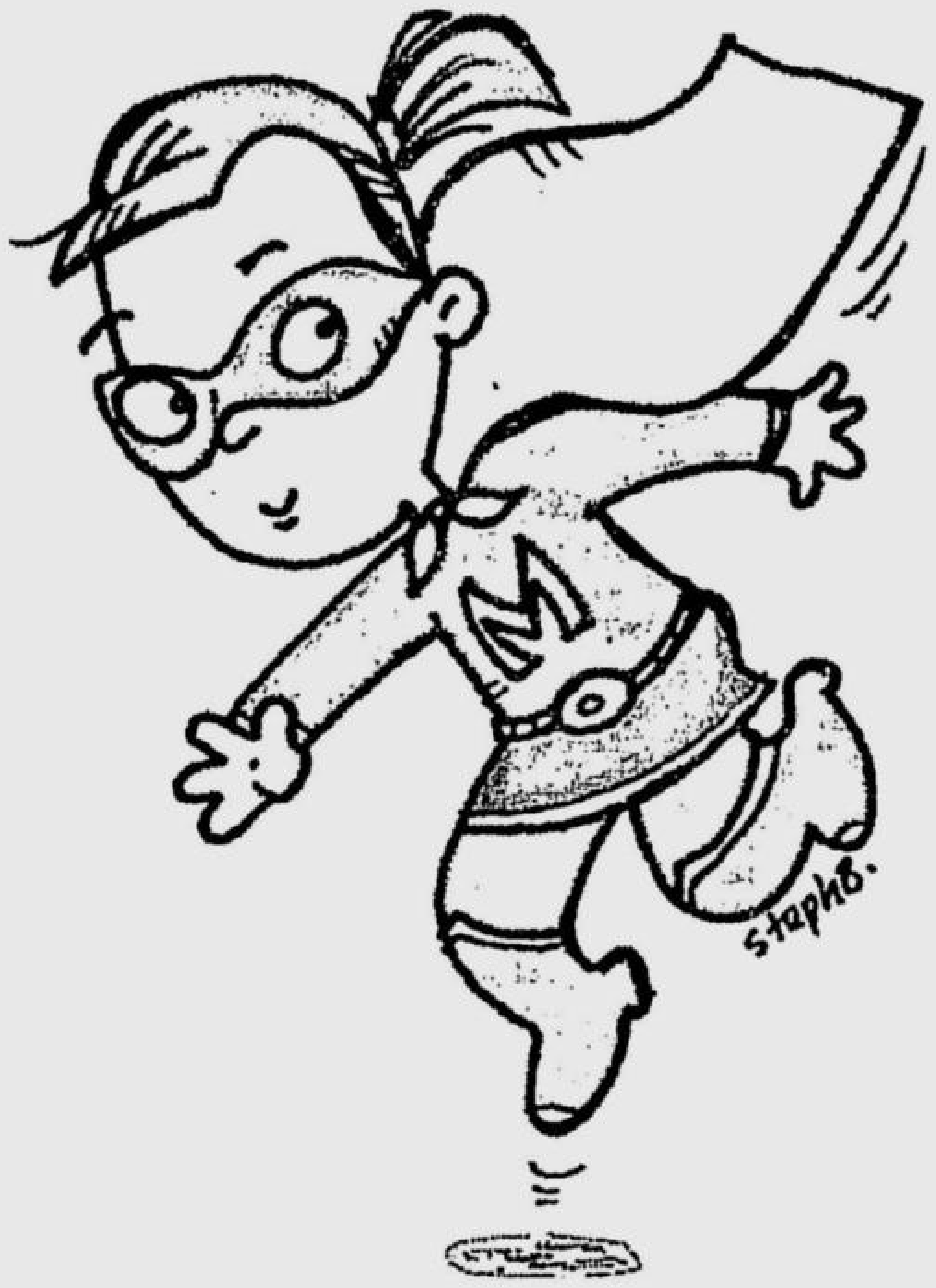
TREE KANGAROOS. Virtually nothing is known of the elusive tree kangaroo and its evolution is still shrouded in mystery. Join the search to reveal more about this endangered creature, which now only exists in rainforest in Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. Watch "Kangaroo" on Sept. 1, 7 p.m. on National Geographic Channel.

NEW INVENTIONS. Get ready for new inventions in "Tomorrow's World" series on the National Geographic Channel. Featured are "Flying Boat"—taking transportation to new heights from the sea to the sky; "Fork Lift Anti-Tip"—a newly designed truck that could save lives by suing technology borrowed from the Formula One race track; and a lot more. "Tomorrow's World" airs on Sept. 6 at 9:30 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.



Dreaming with Your Eyes Open

BY MIA CHACON
ST. SCHOLASTICA'S ACADEMY
MARIKINA CITY



I HAVE always liked daydreaming. Just thinking about it reminds me of all those times when I had my head in the clouds and I was miles away from reality. It's my instant getaway. In the universe of my imagination, I am the hero.

Some people urge me to mingle more, get together with other people. I'd be pushed to move among people and listen to the clatter of footfalls, speeding trucks, and honking cars.

But what is that world compared to mine? How does a busy street in the real world compare with my world which is populated by flying creatures soaring in purple skies that have silver moons? How does reality compare with my fire-breathing dragons, my underground fortresses and my immortal beings?

Zilch. Nil. In other words, nothing.

One doesn't have to be a big shot in my world. It doesn't care about wealth. It's a place where you can relish being free.

Sometimes, daydreaming is a kid's way to escape and flee from boredom. For others, it could be a past time or a hobby. The rest may refer to it as a time machine or a way to travel. But for me, it's the cheapest way to have your future foretold. Sometimes my aspirations become rather too impossible to come true, eventually giving my dreams a difficult time to make them probable. That's okay, I have room for frustrations anyway.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

JI fan

I HAVE been reading JI since my elementary days. I learned a lot from it and discovered many things from it. I remember feeling so happy when I saw that the poem and letter I mailed to you had been published. My cousin and a classmate even talked to me about it when they saw my work. But when something went wrong with the newspaper delivery in our neighborhood, I missed many JI issues. I missed reading the articles. I'm now in my freshman year in college. I still like reading JI but I also read the bigger paper, too. My older sister also reads JI and she really likes the stories. Keep up the good work and thanks a lot!—**"JENELL,"** 16, St. Benedict College, Alabang

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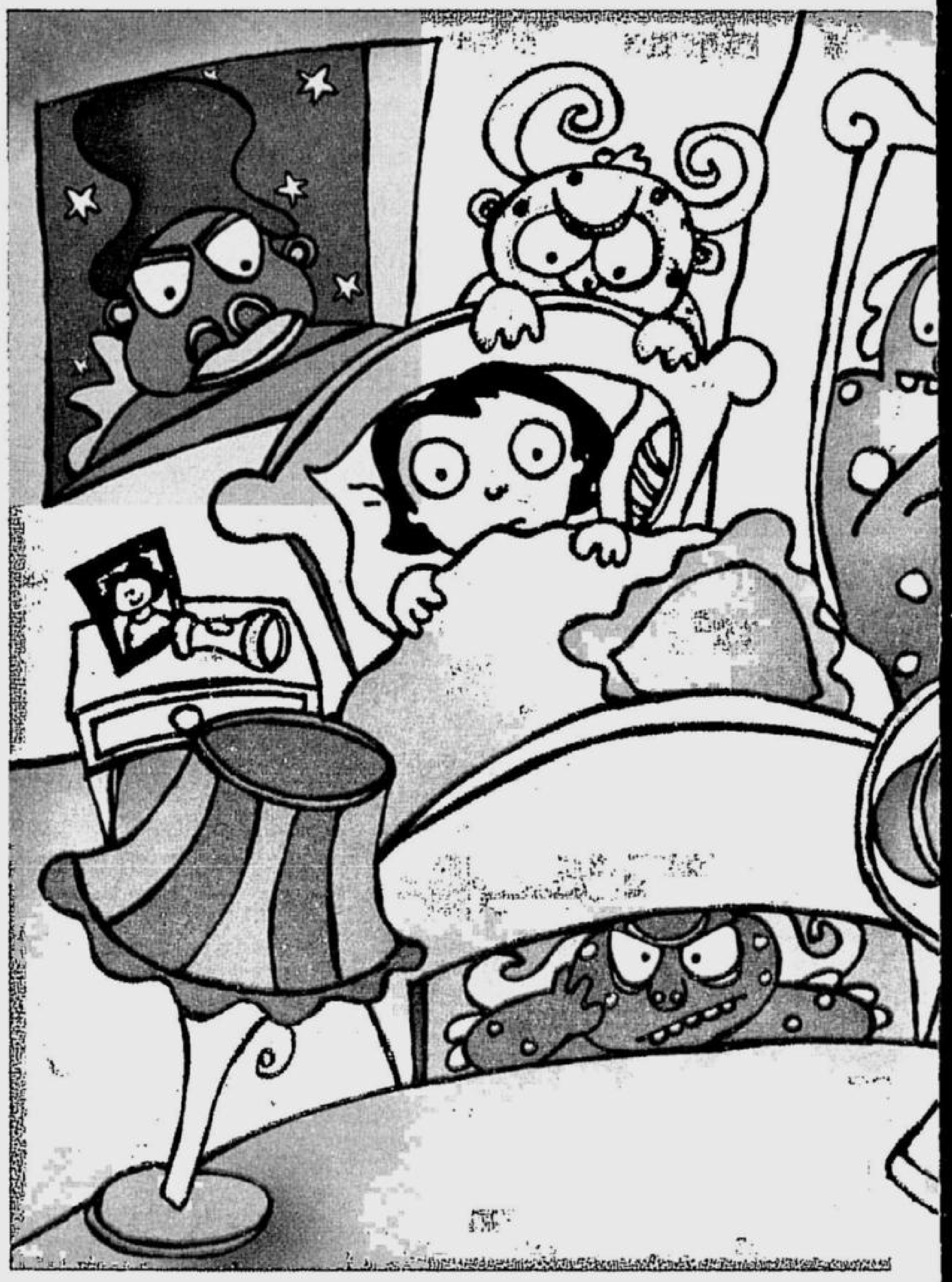
FOR or By KIDS

Little Mari

STORY BY STEPHANIE FERRER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATRINA VILLA

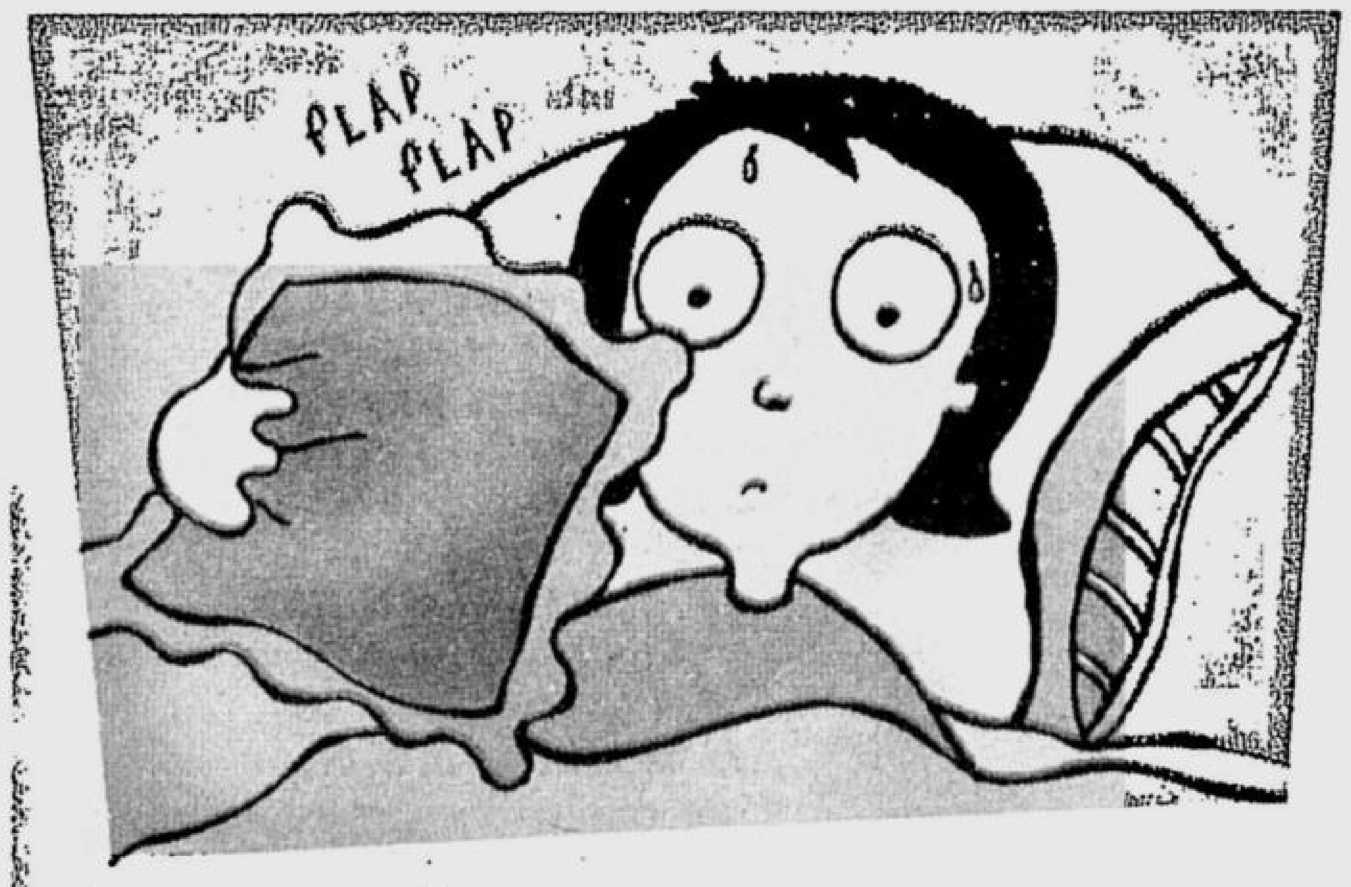


MARIA is a pretty little girl who lives in a big and quite spooky house in New Manila. She lives with her father and pregnant mother, her grandparents and an aunt. They all moved in a year ago.

Maria is a smart and charming young lady. She always behaves properly, a very unusual trait for a child. But Maria—as pretty and smart as she is—is very afraid. She's afraid of the dark and she's afraid of "monsters" which might lurk in the dark.

One summer night Maria's mother was about to deliver twins. Her father, aunt and grandfather rushed Maria's mother to the hospital. That left Maria and her grandmother in the house.

Maria slept early while grandma prayed in her room. After praying, grandma walked to Maria's room in a daze. It had been quite a tiring day and she turned off the electric fan and the light in Maria's room but forgot to turn on the night light.



MARIA WOKE up with a start around 4 a.m. She was perspiring and the room was so dark! She was confused.

"Why is the electric fan off?" she wondered. "And my night-light? Why didn't *Lola* turn on my night light!"

She stared at the ceiling and thought for awhile. She decided to try to get back to sleep. But she couldn't, the heat was burning her skin. She woke up and thought of turning on the fan.

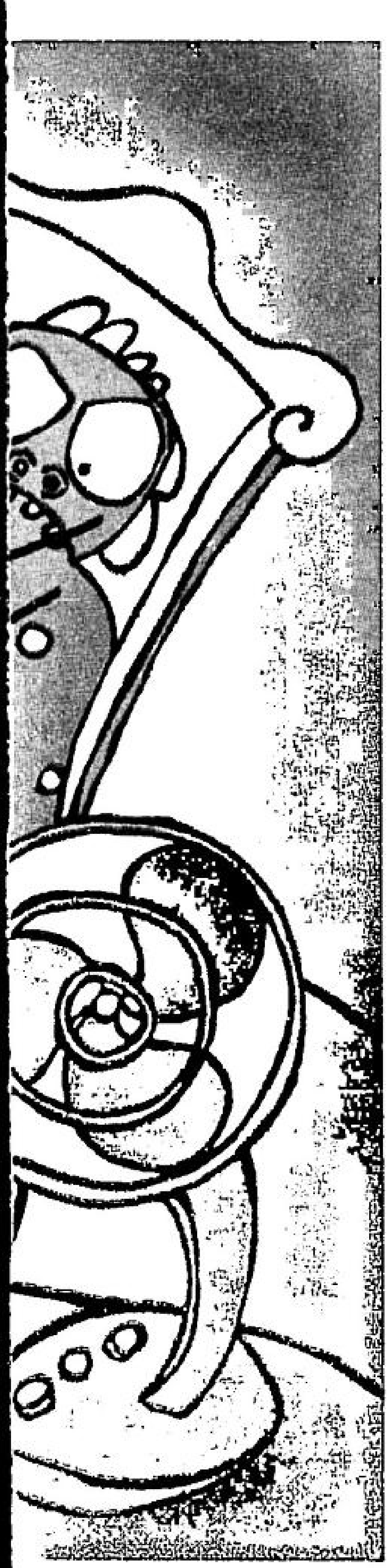
MARIA WOKE up with a start around 4 a.m. She was perspiring and the room was so dark! She was confused.

But when she was about to stand up
might see monsters in the windows and t
might jump out on her from the closet.
from under her bed would grab her fee

"I can't do it," she thought "it's too fa

She thought of turning on the light. Bu
get up to do that. What if there were mo

She grabbed her Walkman from the
listened to some music for a while but it
take her mind off the heat.



she thought that she
he mirror. A creature
Or maybe a monster
!
r away."
it she would have to
sters under her bed?
bedside table. Maria
even music couldn't

Then her Walkman stopped playing. The batteries were dead. Maria thought of using the cellphone her mother left with her in case of an emergency. It was under her pillow. She wanted to call her mom but thought maybe she was resting. She didn't want to disturb her mom. So Maria just played a few games on the cellphone. After that, she held her pillow and used it as a fan. To little Maria's disappointment it produced very little cool air.

She suddenly remembered she had a flashlight on the table beside her bed. She quickly grabbed it but found out that it was dead too. Maria stared at the electric fan for a long, long time. Suddenly the sky started to turn brighter.

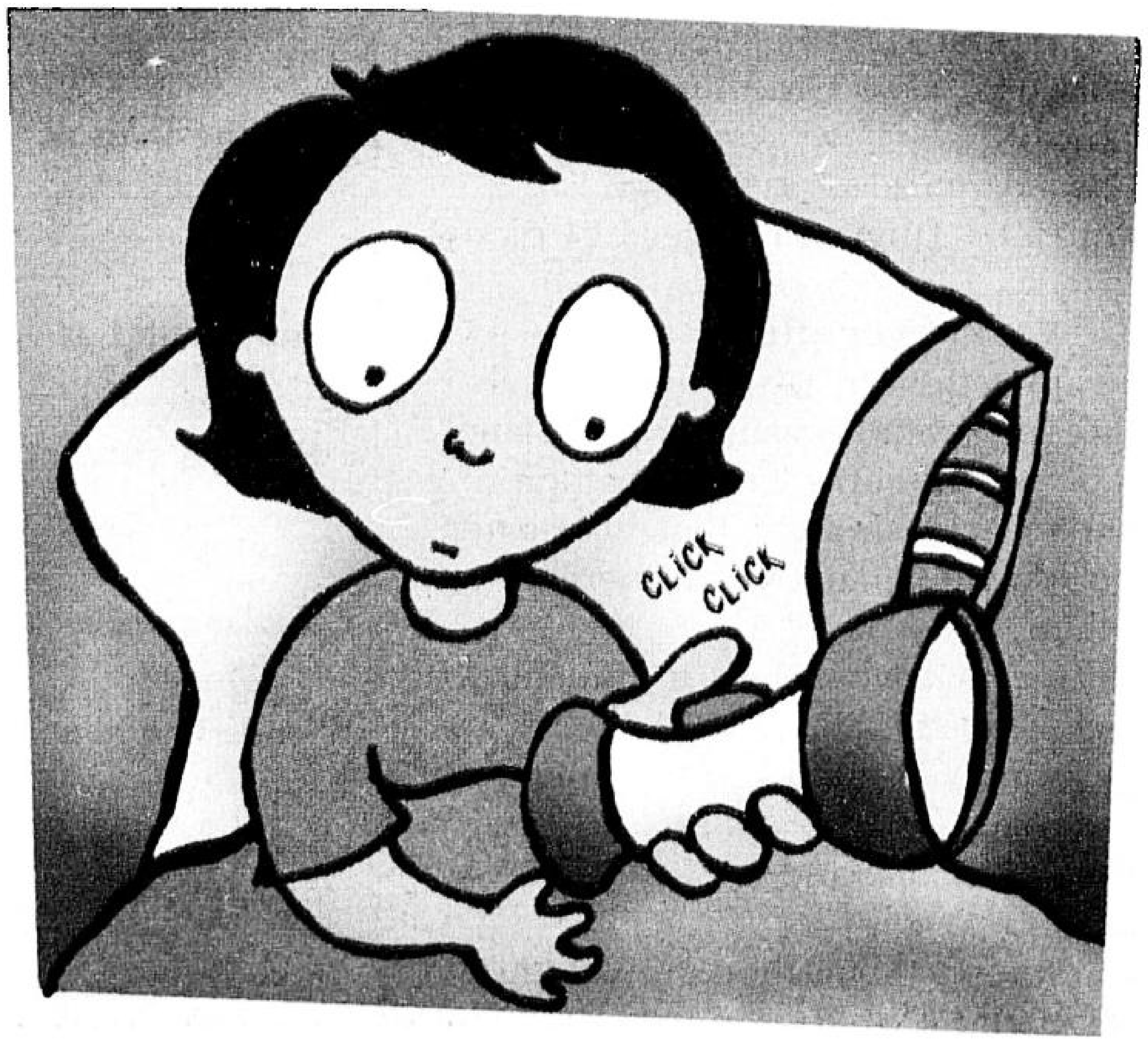
She glanced at her clock. It was 5:45 a.m. She couldn't take the heat any longer. She prayed to God for her not to be scared. She braced herself and then stood up to turn the fan on.

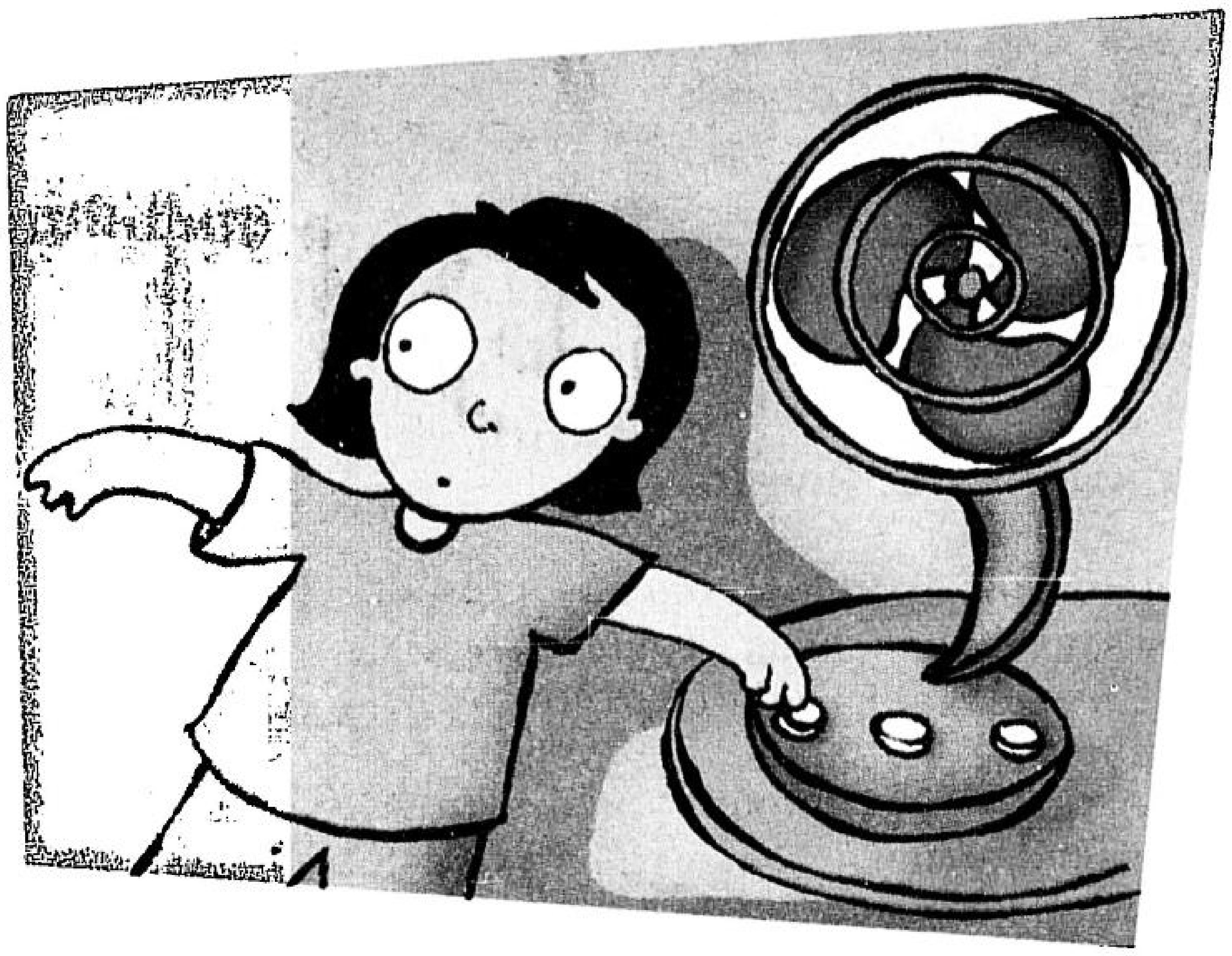
When she went back to bed she was very relieved. "It wasn't that far!" she exclaimed. Little Maria had overcome her fear of the dark. As she finally fell asleep again, birds had begun to chirp.

When she woke up later that morning, she recalled what happened to her. Then she promised herself that from now on she would always be brave.

"Come little Maria!" her grandma said. "Let's visit your Mama in the hospital."

At the hospital, *Lola*'s best friend, Dr. Estrella, walking in the corridor. Dr. Estrella was also Maria's pediatrician.





"Hi there, Maria! Why are you here?"

"Hi! Mama had twins last night and *Lola* and I are going to visit her."

"Tell your mom congratulations from me."

"*Opo*. And you know what? I'm brave from now on!" Maria said.

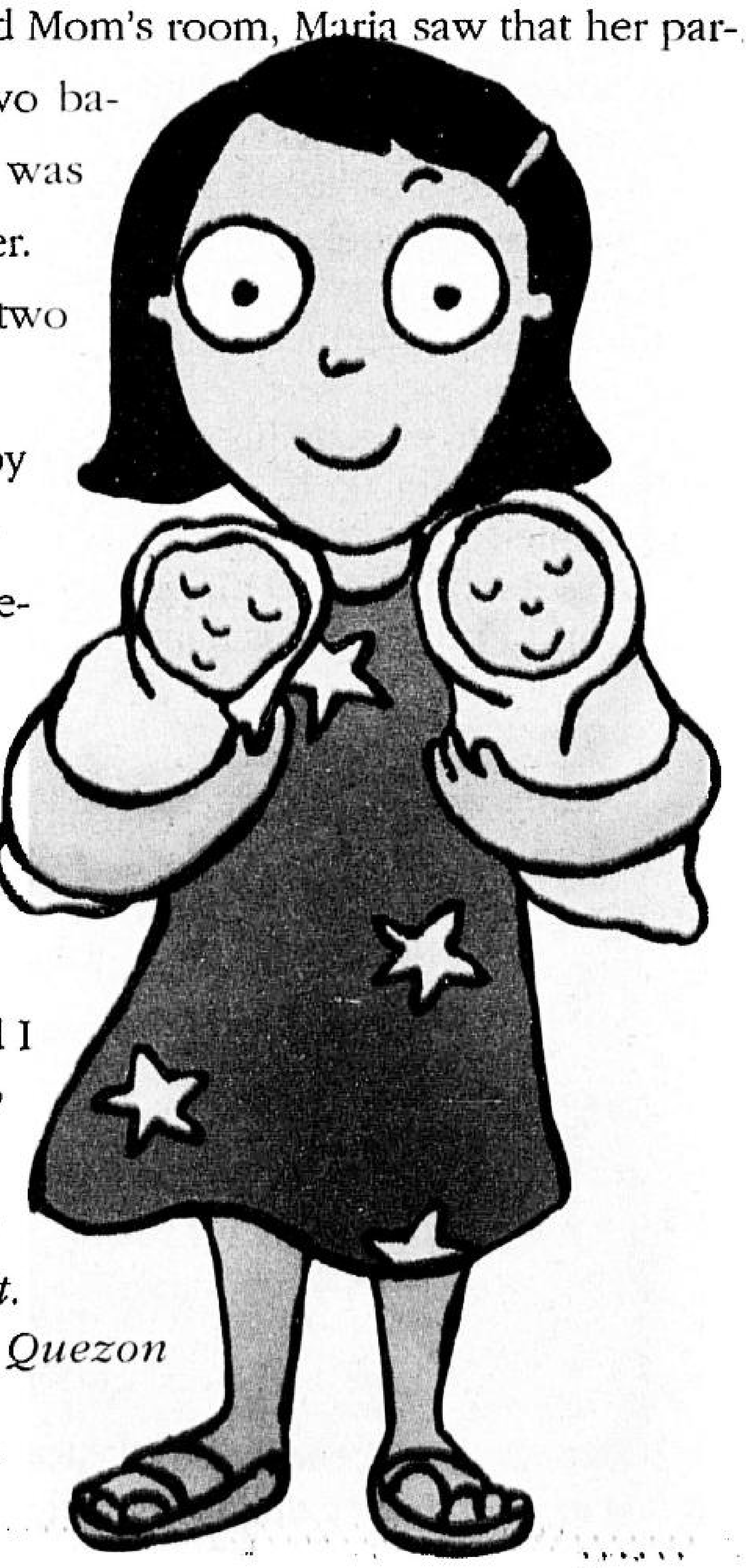
"That's very good, Maria," the doctor said "Well, talk to you soon. I have to go now."

When they reached Mom's room, Maria saw that her parents were holding two babies while grandpa was reading the newspaper.

"Mama! You have two babies?"

"Yes, honey. A baby girl and a baby boy."

She kissed the foreheads of her little siblings and promised herself. "I will take care of my baby brother and sister. I will protect them and I will always be brave."



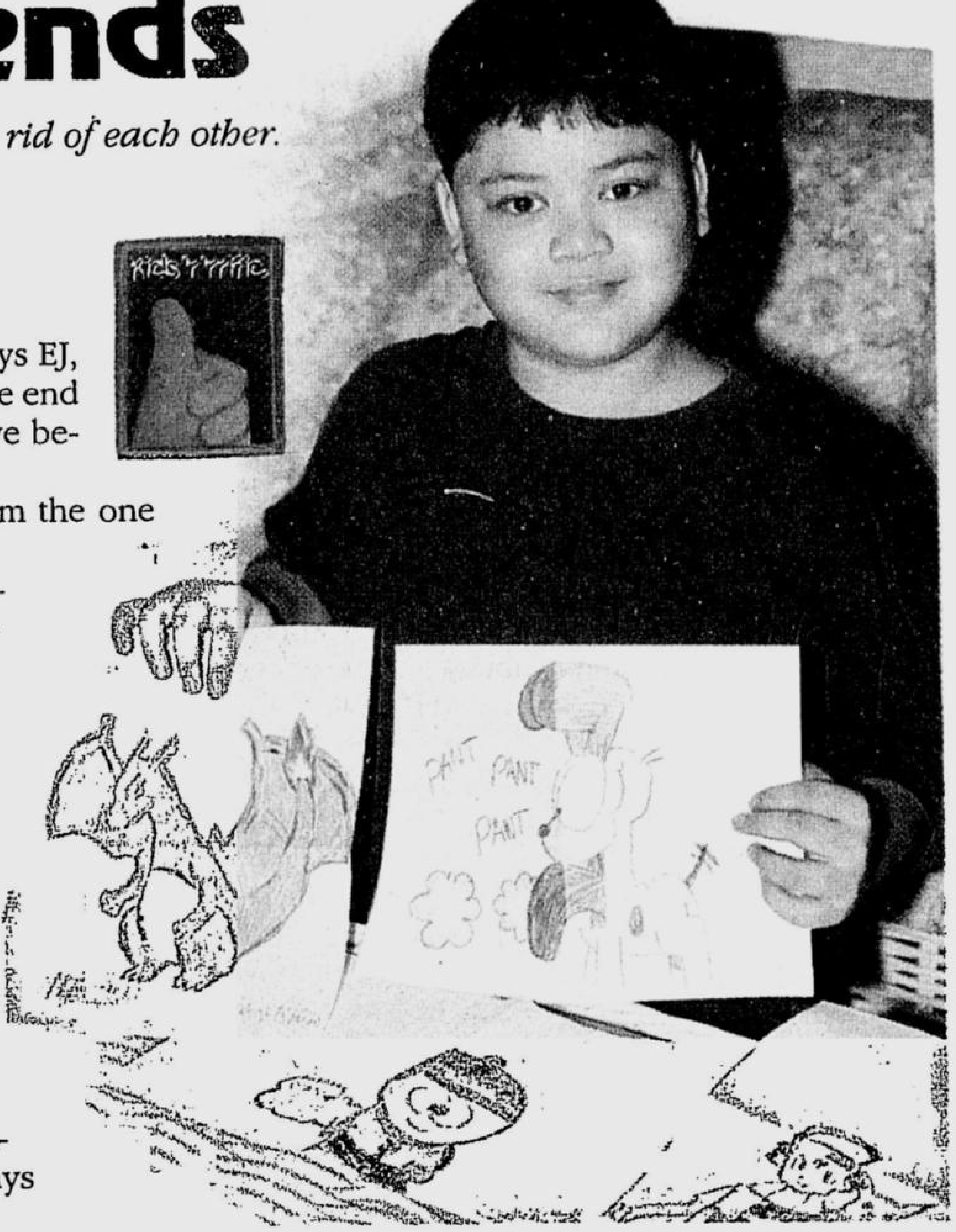
***Steph** is 12 years old and studies at St. Joseph's College of Quezon City.*

***Niña** is the creator of "The Lunch Box."*

Busmates, Neighbors, Best Friends

Luigi Aganon and EJ Cruz can't be rid of each other. Not that they would ever want to

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO



NICE WORK! This is just a small sample of what Luigi is capable of.

Photos by CHI QUILOREN

"I MET him one day in the bus," says EJ, "I just saw this guy sitting so glum at the end of the bus, then I talked to him and we became friends."

"That's not true," protests Luigi, "I'm the one who talked to him!"

"I heard him talking about some certain topic that I'm good at," Luigi relates, "Playstation games."

"Well, it was three years ago," EJ concedes, "I must have forgotten."

Ooookay. Now that we have our facts straight, allow us to introduce two good buddies.

The first is 11-year-old Enrico Jose "EJ" Cruz. His schoolmate, busmate, neighbor, *numero-uno* pal and partner in all things wacky is 12-year-old Luigi Benedict Gavino Aganon.

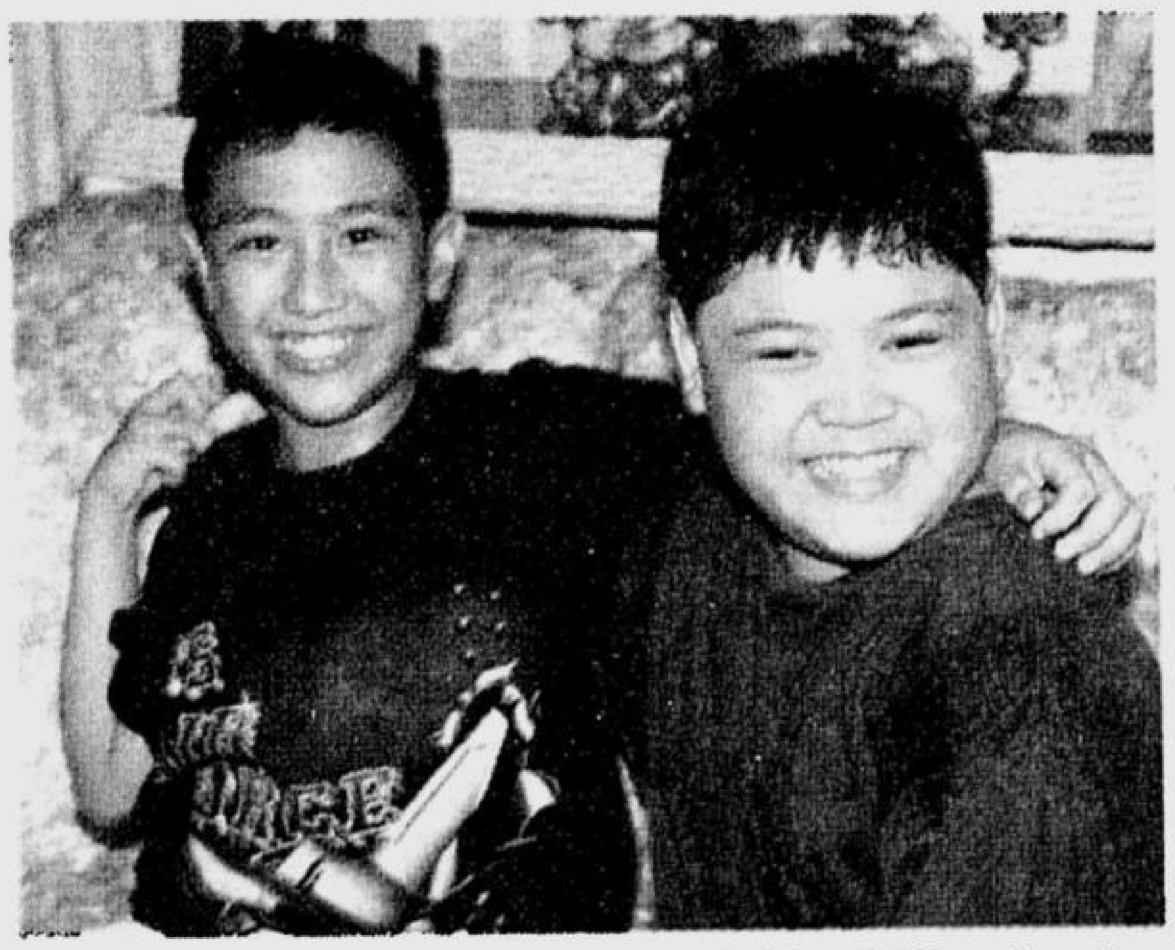
Get ready for. . .Toshi!

One thing EJ really enjoys is listening to Luigi tell a story. "(Luigi) always makes us laugh," he says.

"I just make a weird change of voice," says Luigi, who can recount anything from a classroom escapade to a big movie scene with a nutty sense of humor. But, sometimes, he says, he also makes up stories.

Barely able to contain his chortles, Luigi begins to describe a character he drew.

"I invented a kind of drawing where I put his face," he says, pointing to EJ, "in a caricature type of way, and I put there his name as Toshi."



IS it just us or do Enrico and Luigi look like they're up to something again? Hmmm. . .

Toshi, according to Luigi, "wanted severely to have hair." So he tried all sorts of things to grow his hair back including...

"Hair pills," EJ adds wryly, "they made me grow only one strand of hair."

Luigi, EJ tells us, draws caricatures of nearly everyone he knows.

"I want to be a cartoonist," says Luigi.

"And I want to be Luigi's manager," EJ pipes in.

Wacky ever after

Somewhere along the way to the future, EJ also wants to become a champion swimmer while Luigi would like to be "an Olympic karate champion." The two friends hope, though, that no matter where they go, they'll somehow still be able to hang out together.

"(Luigi) told me that when he's in the States, he'll petition me," says EJ.

"But I soon found out that I can only petition my family," says Luigi.

At that, EJ makes a face and declares, "You're not my friend."

Anyone who knows them, though, will know that can't ever be true.

R U RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free **Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kids 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ______________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at
____
____
____

and studies at
____

Her/his contact number is:
____

Sender's Name:
____

Sender's Age & School:
______, ______________

Sender's Address:
____
____

Sender's Contact No.
____

Brawler No More

Aikido teaches a hot-headed fighter to keep his cool

AIKIDOKA: someone who practices aikido. Aris-*sensei*: 29-year-old Aristotle Manalo. He teaches aikido.

Aikido: some people call it the "Non-fighting Martial Art." As Aris-*sensei* describes it, "It's a way of life."

Before learning aikido, though, this was Aris-*sensei's* way of life. "I was bullied when I was small," he says, "so I wanted to learn something I could use to defend myself with."

At the age of 5, then, Aris enrolled in a karate class. "Maybe because Bruce Lee's movies were very popular," he chuckles.

As he got older, he tried learning other martial arts—*jeet-kun-do*, judo, and even boxing—before throwing his whole self into taekwondo training in high school.

Bullies soon learned to keep away from Aris. At the same time, though, Aris says, because of his training in the martial arts, "My aggressive nature was fueled. Small things that could be resolved by talking, I usually resolved by threats." That was until a pal introduced him to aikido in 1992.

"When I first started to learn aikido, I was pretty cocky," says Aris, "after all I already had a black belt in taekwondo."

"But soon I began to realize a few things," he continues, "when I was training in the other martial arts, it was always about competition, me against somebody else. In aikido, it's more like you against yourself."

Unlike other martial arts that teach you how to attack an opponent, Aris says, aikido only teaches you to restrain your attacker. And it's even more than that.

Once, Aris relates, he was going home late when he noticed six suspicious-looking men following him. He decided to cross the road and quicken his pace. The six men then crossed the road too. Aris crossed the road again and he and the men kept criss-crossing the road until the men split up. By the time they regrouped, though, the men noticed too late that Aris had already neared his village's guardhouse.

"Where did aikido come in there?" he asks, "My attitude of not confronting them when I didn't have to. Before, I would have stood my ground and fought them. I'd have probaby gotten really hurt too."

Now a black-belter in aikido as well, Aris-sensei says, "For little kids, aikido may be a way to better themselves." At the same time, he knows some kids might protest, "Sensei, I don't want to be a better person, I want to be a better fighter!"

"Now what is the best way to defend yourself," Aris-sensei asks, "Having many enemies and beating them, or having no enemies?"

"That," he points out, "is what you learn in aikido."

Christine C. Rivero

INTENSITY. Aris-sensei teaches a new technique.

ROGER MARGALLO

Do you know a grown-up who

- ● is fun to be with
- ● has an exciting job
- ● keeps an amazing hobby
- ● is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my_____________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)______________________;
2)______________________;
3)______________________;
4)______________________;
and
5)______________________.

My nominee lives at______________________________.
Give him/her a call at______________________ or send him/her an e-mail at________________.
By the way, I'm______________________________.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is ________________________.
You may call me at ________________________.

'SHREK'

Review by Kids

MOVIES

BY ALEXIS DY

"SHREK" is an animated comedy about an ogre named Shrek, a princess named Fiona, a prince named Farquaad and a donkey named—well, Donkey!

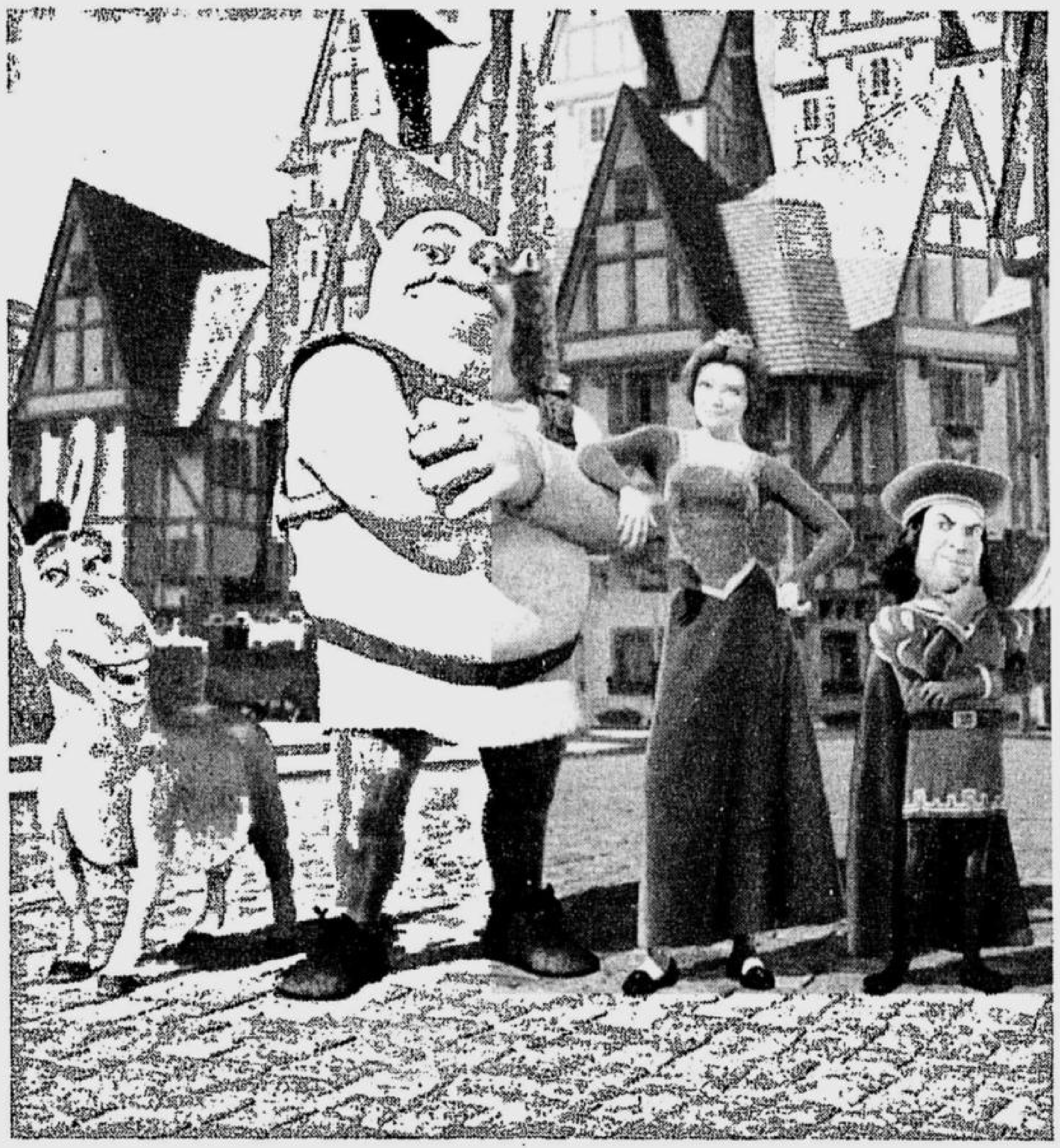
Shrek lives in a swamp all by himself. He's not lonely, he just prefers to live alone because he thinks everyone is afraid of him—a big, ugly ogre. When fairy-tale creatures inhabit his swamp, Shrek is furious. With a talking donkey tagging along, he goes to the kingdom of DuLoc to talk to Prince Farquaad.

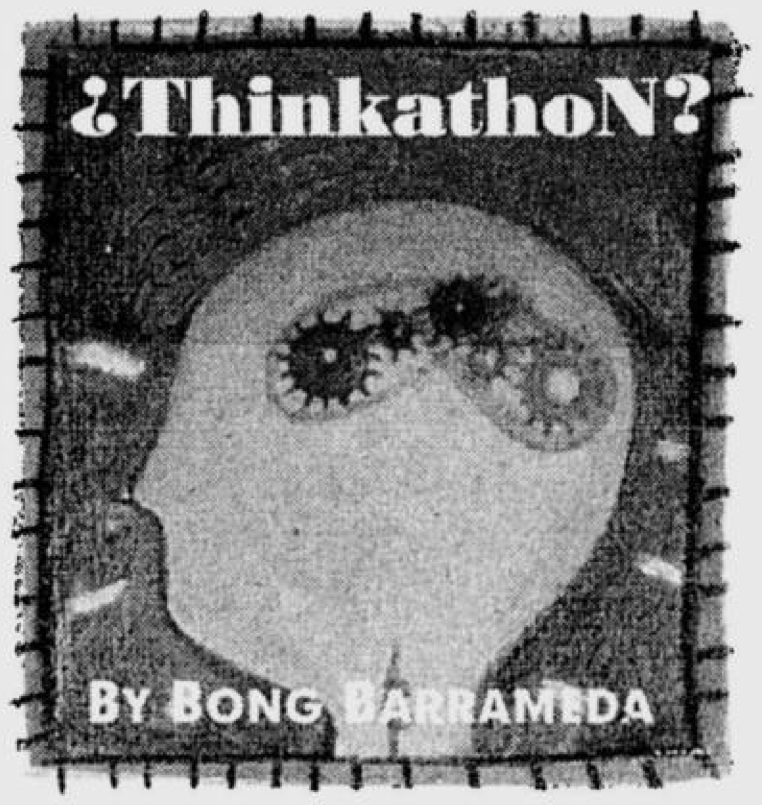
Farquaad agrees to clear out the fairy-tale creatures, fairies, the big bad wolf, three little pigs, three blind mice, and all—on one condition: To bring him Princess Fiona. See, Farquaad can't become king if he doesn't have a queen, his bride. And it's up to Shrek to rescue Fiona from her fire-breathing keeper, a dragon.

Alexis' Rating:

You should definitely watch it. It even has "guest stars" like the Gingerbread Man, the Pied Piper, the Old Woman Who Lived in A Shoe, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the Three Bears, and more!

"Shrek" is now showing in theaters near you.





¿ThinkathoN?

BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Let's Get Musical!

SO WHAT'S your Musical I.Q.? Listed here are all-time favorite songs from well-loved Broadway musicals. Can you hum your way to an ear-pleasing score by matching each tune with the right musical?

1. "Last Night of the World"
   A. *A Little Night Music*
   B. *Miss Saigon*
   C. *World Without Love*

2. "Tomorrow"
   X. *Future Perfect*
   Y. *Annie*
   Z. *Somewhere in Time*

3. "All I Ask of You"
   A. *The Sound of Music*
   B. *Les Miserables*
   C. *The Phantom of the Opera*

4. "Impossible Dream"
   X. *Man of La Mancha*
   Y. *Wizard of Oz*
   Z. *Sunset Boulevard*

5. "You'll Never Walk Alone"
   A. *Cabaret*
   B. *Funny Girl*
   C. *Carousel*

6. "I Don't Know How to Love Him"
   X. *Guys and Dolls*
   Y. *Oliver!*
   Z. *Jesus Christ Superstar*

7. "Hello, Young Lovers"
   A. *The King and I*
   B. *West Side Story*
   C. *My One and Only*

8. "Some Enchanted Evening"
   X. *South Pacific*
   Y. *Saturday Night Fever*
   Z. *Kismet*

9. "Memory"
   A. *Grease*
   B. *Cats*
   C. *Evita*

10. "I Could Have Danced All Night"
   X. *My Fair Lady*
   Y. *Lambada*
   Z. *The Music Man*

11. "If Ever I Would Leave You"
   A. *Goodbye Girl*
   B. *Camelot*
   C. *The Mousetrap*

12. "What I Did For Love"
   X. *Porgy and Bess*
   Y. *Fiddler on the Roof*
   Z. *A Chorus Line*

Answers:

1. B 7. A
2. Y 8. X
3. C 9. B
4. X 10. X
5. C 11. B
6. Z 12. Z

Ratings :

11 – 12 .... Superbrain
8 – 10 .... Excellent
5 – 7 .... Good

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

TIME TRAVELING

OH WHAT a jet-setter I have become! With the Batang Historyador Series, I have been able to travel back in time and witness how children played and worked and lived.

The first book "Si Diwayen, Noong Bago Dumating ang mga Espanyol," has been able to bring me all the way back to the Pre-Spanish era. There, a 9-year-old girl named Diwayen, has to leave her family and work as a slave for Datu Bulawan in the neighboring village.

Si Segunda,
Pepper Roxas

So far away from home, Diwayen is lonely. One day, Diwayen stumbles upon a hidden room and meets Princess Lunhaw, the 8-year-old daughter of the Datu, who is not allowed to leave the house. Indeed, these datus are really strange—they hide their children and never let the children's feet touch the ground outside.

If you think that is interesting, wait until you find out what happens next! Well, actually, I won't tell you, but it gets pretty scary especially when you see the wild boar who attacks. . .but I have said enough. You can travel back in time too, you know, and find out for yourself. Paolo Lim's pastels will take you there too, to a long ago Philippines, to a very green and innocent and playful and dangerous time. And don't worry too much, you can trust in the courage of the girl named Diwayen.

The second book, "Si Segunda, Noong Panahon ng mga Espanyol," has taken me to the Spanish Occupation. Like Diwayen, Segunda has to do chores. One day, when she delivers the laundry to a rich man's house, she peers through a hole in the wall and sees the son Felipe, but when she tells her parents, they regretfully inform her that they cannot afford a maestro. Besides, her father adds, girls like her should only be taught sewing and cooking and planting and doing the laundry.

It is incredible that Segunda didn't throw a tantrum right then and there. I think some girls right now would have. Instead, she dutifully obeys her father and mother, and more incredibly, she finds a way to follow her heart. Pepper Roxas' illustrations have captured Segunda's never-say-die spirit, and they are quite funny especially when Felipe finds out that a girl is peeping at him through the hole in the wall. Really, boys should never underestimate the knowledge, strength and intelligence of girls!

Both books "Si Diwayen. . ." and "Si Segunda. . ." are written by Augie Rivera, and he sure knows how to keep me on all my cockroach toes! Phew! All the excitement and all this time-traveling have got me exhausted, and there are three more stops along the way. Oh please let us reserve them for . . . another. . .day. . .zzzzZZZZ.

The Batang Historyador Series are books that feature children from the different periods in our history: Pre-Spanish, Spanish Occupation, American Occupation, Japanese Occupation and pre-Martial Law. These books are sponsored by Unicef and are available at our local bookstores.

Love

FOR or BY KIDS

By Lauren Lim
Illustration by
Albert Rodriguez

Love is God's power,

We are blessed and gifted with it.

Love is a special way to be a husband and a wife

Love is being a family by loving each other.

Love is loving your mom, dad,

brothers, and sisters,

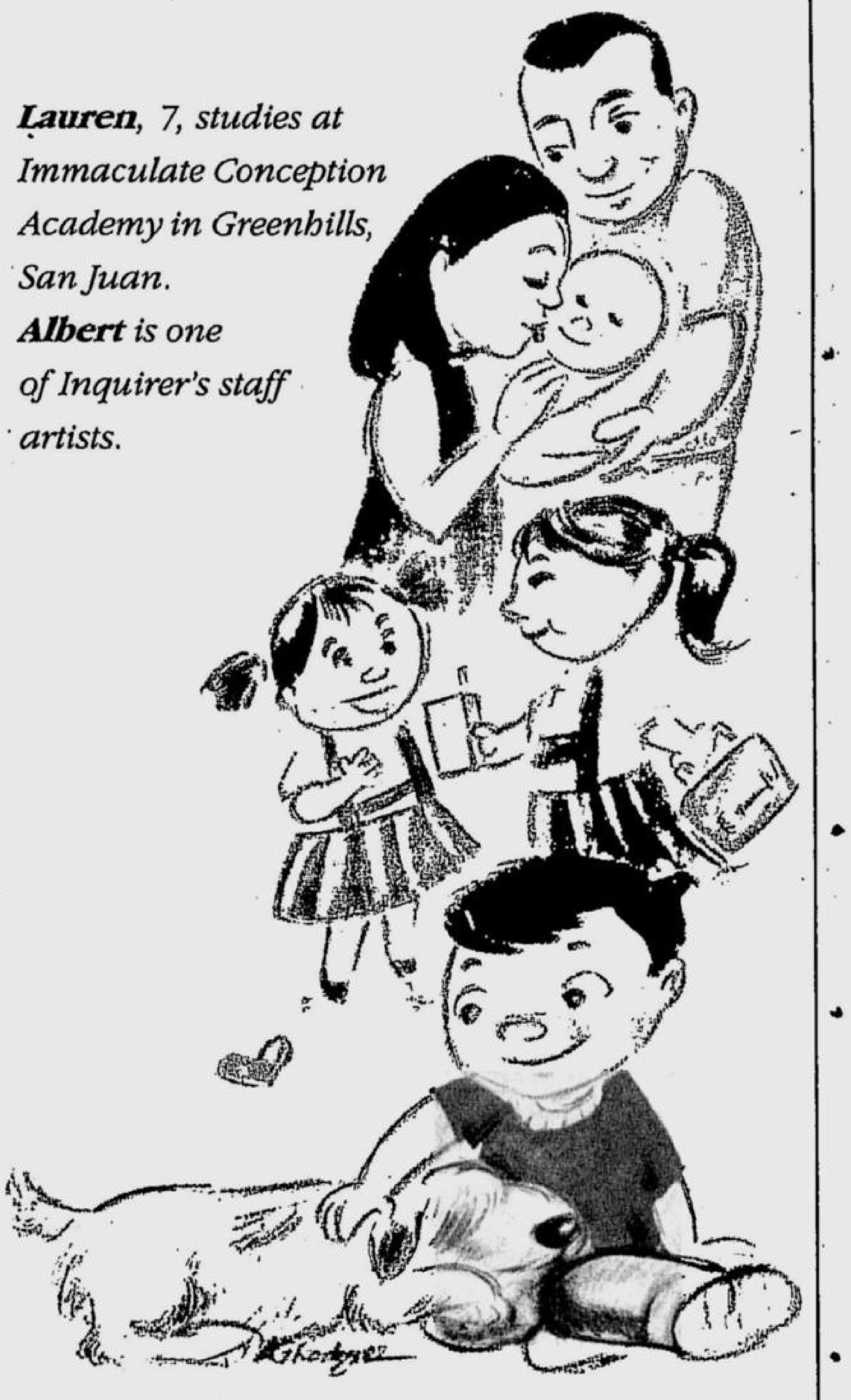
Love is loving your best friend too.

Love is the power to be free,

Love is the way you should be!

Love everyone!

***Lauren**, 7, studies at*
Immaculate Conception
Academy in Greenhills,
San Juan.
***Albert** is one*
of Inquirer's staff
artists.



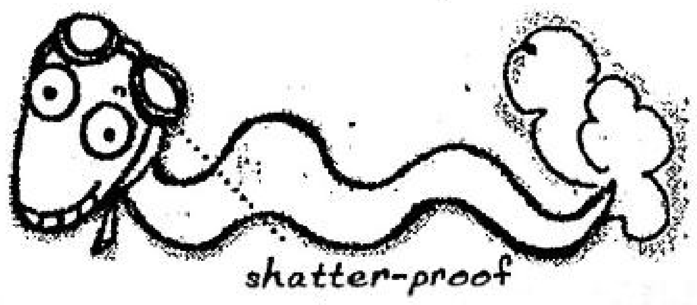
THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

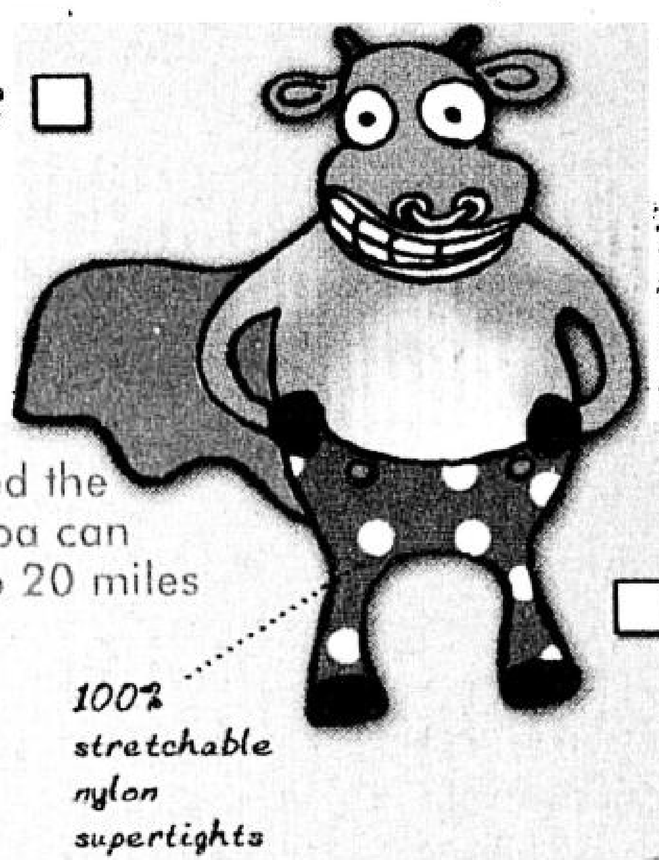
IT'S THE FASTEST LAND ANIMAL IN THE WORLD!

☑ your answer!

Is it the Aztec Speed Snake? ☐


shatter-proof goggles

A snake called the Black Mamba can move up to 20 miles an hour.


100% stretchable nylon supertights

☐ Is it the Batangas SuperCow?

☐ Is it the Cheetah?

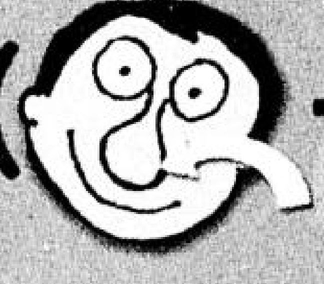
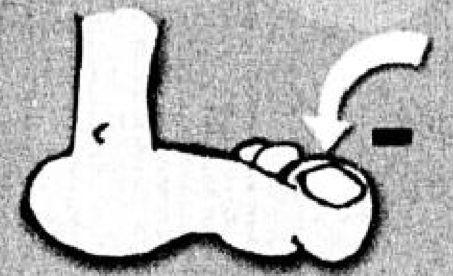
Graduation picture

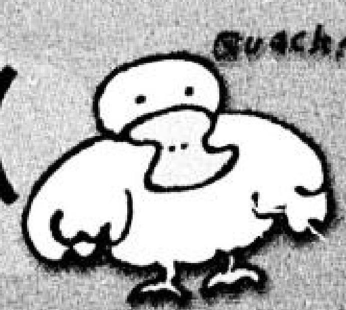
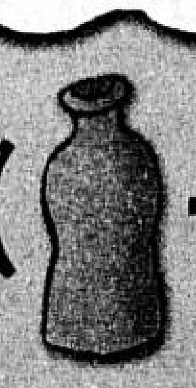
The cheetah runs up to 110 kilometers an hour. That's faster than the average speed of a car on the highway!

ANSWER: It's the Cheetah!

WORDMATH

How fast can you solve the word problem below? Figure out the secret word, then refer to the inverted chart to see if you are a **WORDMATH GENIUS!**

( - se) + ( - te) +

( - uck) + ( - bott) = ?

The secret word is "noodle". If you figured this out in
LESS THAN 1 SECOND: You are probably not from this planet.
3 SECONDS OR LESS: There's a chance that you are human, but we're not sure.
4 SECONDS OR MORE: Wow! You're a certified wordmath genius! Can we have your autograph?

Do NOT press, scratch, sniff or taste this SPOT!

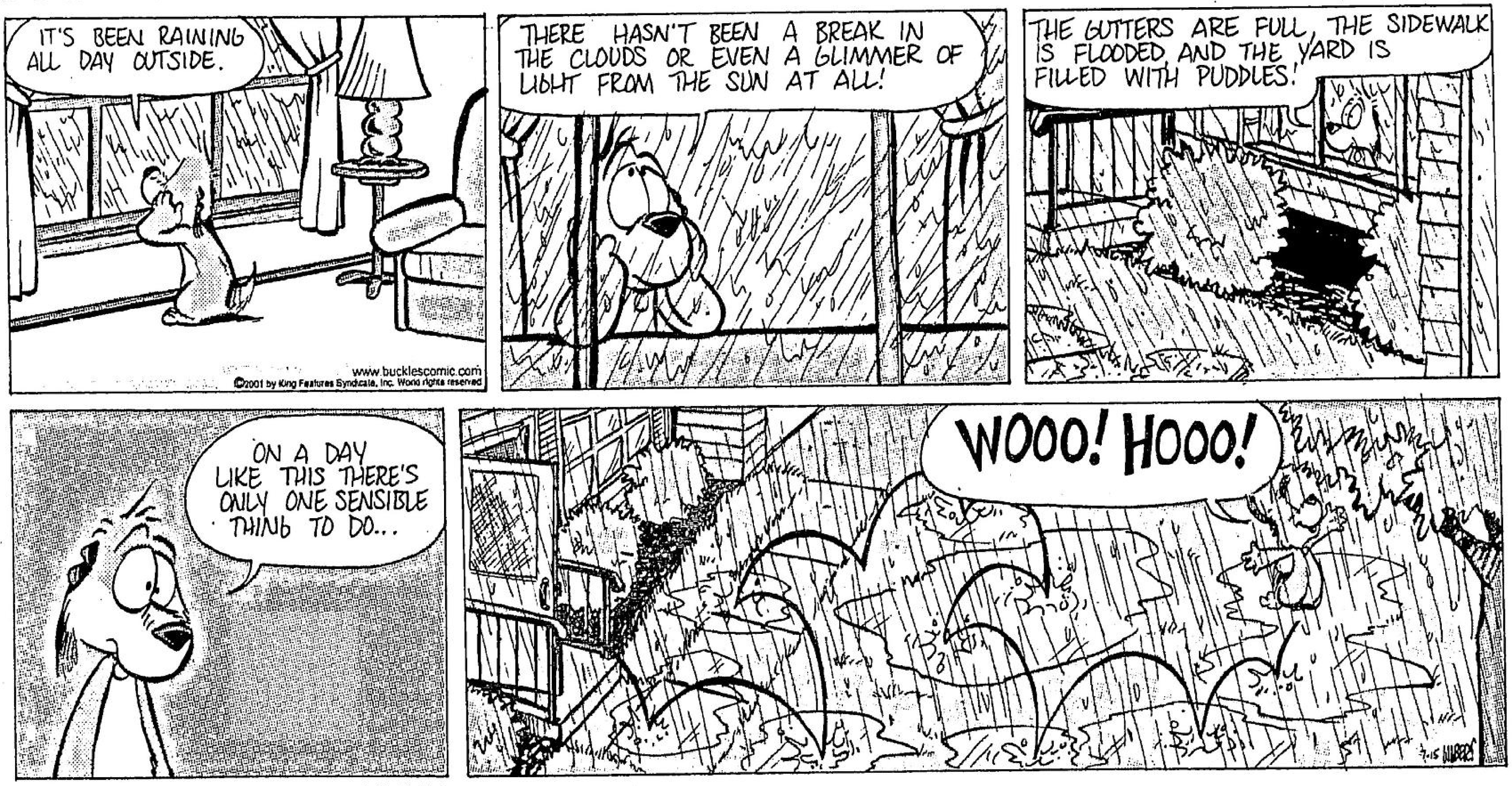
The smallest insect in the world may be resting here. You may not see it, because it's only .2mm long. It's much smaller than the eye of a common housefly!

BESEFADIOREY DEFOSELUSY

Remove the letters O,E, B,D,S and U to find the name of this insect!

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


IT'S BEEN RAINING ALL DAY OUTSIDE.
www.bucklescomic.com
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
THERE HASN'T BEEN A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS OR EVEN A GLIMMER OF LIGHT FROM THE SUN AT ALL!
THE GUTTERS ARE FULL, THE SIDEWALK IS FLOODED AND THE YARD IS FILLED WITH PUDDLES!
ON A DAY LIKE THIS THERE'S ONLY ONE SENSIBLE THING TO DO...
WOOO! HOOO!
7-15 GILBERT